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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

MARCH, 2002

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 3

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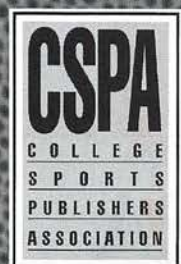


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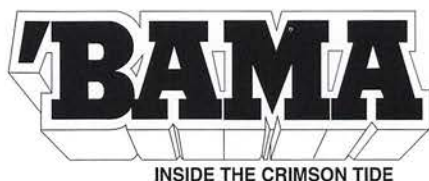
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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MARCH 2002

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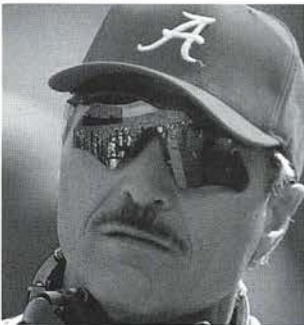


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Men's Basketball: Strong Play Leads To High Hopes

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A year after the huge disappointment of being left out of the NCAA Tournament, Alabama shows that it is one of the nation's top teams. The Crimson Tide is aiming for a Southeastern Conference title and will then take aim at the best in college basketball. by Kirk McNair



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Alabama's football team gets started in spring football practice March 7, and Head Coach Dennis Franchione acknowledges that the second spring with his players will be far different than it was a year ago. Bama has some positions to shore up beginning this spring. by Kirk McNair

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The situation at linebacker looked pretty good with all three starters returning, but when Salem Rasheed elected to forego his final season and turn professional, all of a sudden Alabama was very thin at linebacker. Defensive Coordinator Carl Torbush, who coaches Bama linebackers, will begin working to solve problems this spring. by J.E. Lisby



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NCAA Update: University Will Appeal Penalties

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When the NCAA Infractions Committee announced penalties against Alabama's football program that were far in excess of anything imagined by The University, it was an easy decision to announce an appeal of the penalties. However, there is work to be done if Bama is to have any relief. by Kirk McNair

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Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione was recruiting with one hand tied behind his back owing to self-imposed penalties for NCAA infractions, and his chore became more burdensome when the NCAA Infractions Committee announced its penalties. Nevertheless, most of those who had committed to the Tide elected to go with Alabama and Coach Fran. by James Edwards



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BAMA SCORECARD

Football Staff Search

Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione is on the lookout for a new assistant coach. Ron Case, who coached Alabama's safeties last season, has decided to retire...again. Case, 64, had announced his retirement a year earlier from North Carolina, but was coaxed to join Franchione's staff. Franchione said, "We had hoped to get two years from Ron. As it turned out, we got one, but we greatly appreciate his work on our staff."

It may be the new assistant coach will not coach safeties. Alabama divided the work of secondary coaching last season with Chris Thurmond coaching cornerbacks. Thurmond may coach all defensive backs with an additional assistant assigned to another area.

Franchione said, "Who you hire depends partly on their recruiting expertise areas and how they would mesh with the staff. There are a lot of things to think about when you start analyzing a vacant position."

Most of the current Tide staff came with Franchione when he made the move from Texas Christian. So adding an assistant from this part of the country could be helpful. Franchione explained. "We'll give a great deal of weight to recruiting ability and even ties to this part of the country."

Currently, no Tide on-the-field assistant coach is an alumnus of The University. And given Alabama's ongoing struggles with the NCAA, some have suggested that Franchione would prefer to hire outside the Crimson family. But Franchione scoffed at the idea. "Oh, heavens no!" he said. "Anybody who is a graduate of Alabama—that only enhances their chances. We would always give them the longest look and the benefit of the doubt in every situation."

Hall Of Fame Game

The pledge of Alabama Men's Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried to upgrade the Crimson Tide schedule will continue next year. Previously it was announced that Alabama is working to get a home-and-home series started with Indiana, coached by former Tide star Mike Davis. The first game in that series is tentatively scheduled for Tuscaloosa early next December.

But before that, Alabama could find itself in another very high profile game, one of the signature contests to tip off the season, the Hall of Fame Game at Springfield, Massachusetts. Gottfried said, "We haven't signed a contract yet, but we've been invited to play against Ohio State. It's a big honor. We're definitely going to play, if they'll have us. They did call, so hopefully we can get the contract signed."

Gottfried was an assistant coach in the game when UCLA played Indiana in 1993-94.

He said, "Hopefully, our team is going to be invited to play in a lot of events like that. I think this year's success in the Jimmy V (tournament) and our play in the Sugar Bowl Classic helped. We hope to get more invitations, because it gives you great exposure.

They're great for your program." The game will be nationally telecast by ESPN.

Coach Of The Year

Alabama Head Basketball Coach Mark Gottfried has to be considered a leading candidate for Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year, and there have been suggestions he is a leading candidate for the national honor. Meanwhile, it could be that his top competition nationally could come from another former Alabama basketball player. Mike Davis, now head coach of Indiana, is considered a leading candidate for coach of the year in the Big Ten.

Moody Number One

When Alabama's women's basketball team completed its sweep of in-state rival Auburn with a 60-57 win over the Tigers in Auburn on February 10, it marked the 268th coaching victory for Rick Moody in his 13 years as head coach of the Alabama women's team. That moved him into first place in head coaching victories among all Alabama basketball coaches. He passed Wimp Sanderson, who had 267 wins in his 12 years (1981-92) as head coach of the Alabama men's basketball team.

Still Not A Prospect

Remember Kei Madison? Madison, a 6-9, 210-pound forward from Shelby County High School in Columbiana, was a first team All-America as a junior college basketball star at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs three years ago. He then transferred to Southern Union in Wadley, but didn't finish the year there after signing with Alabama. From there it was off to Niceville, Florida, and Okaloosa-Walton Junior College.

Madison had been reported as hoping to play at Mississippi State. He was averaging 12.4 points and 10.4 rebounds per game at Okaloosa-Walton. He also had 59 blocked shots in 21 games.

Now he has been dismissed from Okaloosa-Walton by Coach Bruce Steward, who said Madison violated team policy.

Fastest Football Tider

One of the more interesting questions every year is "Which Alabama football player is the fastest on the team?" Though obviously the answer would depend in part on how the term "fastest" is defined, football speed is most often reported in terms of the 40-yard dash. And last season's champion was Jason McAddley. Bama coaches timed him at 4.4 last spring, and NFL scouts this season have adjusted that just slight upward to 4.41 (which still makes him the fastest receiving prospect on the *Sporting News*' draft board).

While he prepares for the NFL draft, McAddley is with the Bama track team.

Having just completed his senior year for the Tide, McAddley's Crimson football days are done. But in between competing in the Senior Bowl and getting ready for the NFL Combine, McAddley has found the time to

compete for Coach Harvey Glance and the Alabama track team, which is ranked number one in the nation indoors. At the Barnett Bank Invitational in Gainesville, Florida, McAddley was timed at 7.97 in the 60-meter hurdles. That mark was the seventh fastest time in Tide track history.

But McAddley still came up short of teammate Ron Bramlett. Bama's world-class hurdler turned in a 7.54, which was the fifth-fastest time in college track history.

By the way, based on last year's clockings, tailback Ray Hudson (4.41 in the 40) inherits McAddley's spot as fastest player on the team...at least until the squad is timed again later this spring.

Graduate Assistants

Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione announced two changes on his graduate assistant staff. Joe Dan Rogers, who served last season as a video graduate assistant, will move to an on-the-field position, while former Crimson Tide offensive lineman Paul Hogan will join the staff as video graduate assistant. Rogers, who will help coach offense, replaces Mike Bloomgren who was recently named offensive line coach at Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Hogan will move into the spot vacated by Rogers.

"We're excited about these moves," Franchione said. "It is a reward for young coaches to be able to move up through the ranks and I'm confident both will do an outstanding job."

Rogers joined the Tide last year following one season working as NFL pro scout liaison and in recruiting quality control at TCU. He is a 1998 graduate of Oklahoma where he played defensive back 1996-98. He was an All Academic Big XII selection.

Hogan, a four-year letterman with the Tide from 1997-2000, was a two-time All-SEC pick at center. He started 37 of his 45 career games, was a two-time Academic All-SEC pick and winner of the Pat Trammell leadership award. Following graduation from Alabama, Hogan signed a free agent contract with the Los Angeles Raiders and then spent last season as a volunteer assistant with the Georgia Bulldogs.

He is married to the former Jennifer Rouzie, daughter of former Tide player and assistant coach Jeff Rouzie.

Football Lettermen

A total of 64 Alabama football players earned varsity letters during the 2001 season. Heading that list were 22 seniors, while 19 juniors, 15 sophomores and eight freshmen earned letterman status. They are:

Seniors, linebacker Adam Cox, nose tackle David Daniel, tight end Jeremy Drummond, linebacker Victor Ellis, linebacker Darius Gilbert, nose tackle Allen Hollie, center Patrick Hollingsworth, flanker Michael James, tight end Terry Jones, Jr., wide receiver Jason McAddley, wide receiver Freddie Milons, defensive end Aries Monroe, cornerback Brett Moore, flanker Stephen Moore, safety Reggie Myles, strong safety Shontua

Ray, quarterback Jonathan Richey, fullback Rob Saucier, defensive end Patrick Tate, placekicker Neal Thomas, offensive tackle Shaun Williams, and quarterback Andrew Zow. A junior letterman who is not returning is linebacker Saleem Rasheed.

Lettermen expected to return for next year are:

Dennis Alexander (So, SG), Waine Bacon (Jr, SS), Todd Bates (Fr, DE), Santonio Beard (So, TB), Lane Bearden (Jr, P), Hirschel Bolden (Jr, CB), Wesley Britt (Fr, QT), Marvin Brown (Jr, FB), Anthony Bryant (So, NT), Antonio Carter (Jr, SE), Sam Collins (Jr, FL), Brooks Daniels (So, ROV), Gerald Dixon (Jr, CB), Dante Ellington (Jr, ST), Alonzo Ephraim (Jr, C), Corey Ferguson (So, CB), Dre Fulgham (So, SB), Ahmaad Galloway (Jr, TB), Atlas Herrion (Jr, QT), Ray Hudson (Fr, TB), Chris James (Fr, S), Jarret Johnson (Jr, DT), Charles Jones (So, FS), Kenny King (Jr, DT), Donnie Lowe (So, FB), Triandos Luke (So, SE), Roberto McBride (So, CB), Nautyn McKay-Loescher (So, DE), Evan Mathis (Fr, C), Marc Miller (So, SS), Kindal Moorehead (Jr, DE), Marico Portis (Jr, QG), Jason Rawls (Fr, ROV), Nick Ridings (So, SN), Derek Sanders (Jr, DT), Theo Sanders (Jr, TE), Justin Smiley (Fr, QG), Lance Taylor (So, FL), Thurman Ward (Fr, CB), Tyler Watts (Jr, QB), and Cornelius Wortham (So, LB)

First Commitments For 2003

Alabama hosted a large number of upcoming high school senior football players during the Crimson Tide's 95-82 romp over Tennessee in basketball action at Coleman Coliseum. And despite Alabama's well-publicized NCAA penalties, it appears Coach Dennis Franchione and his staff had a successful day as the prep juniors made unofficial visits. Franchione has said he intends to get early commitments, and he got at least two just 10 days after the recent signing day.

D.J. Chambers of Highland Home and Chris Felder of Thomasville have announced they intend to sign with Alabama next February. Both are prep quarterbacks who project as defensive backs or wide receivers in college.

Chambers, 6-0, 180, said, "I like the coaching staff, campus, and atmosphere. My family members have always been Alabama fans and I have been told since I was young that I would play for Alabama." Chambers has been clocked at 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash and has a 40-inch vertical jump.

Highland Home Coach Jon Randolph said, "D.J. is the most talented athlete I've ever coached or have seen on a football field."

Felder, 5-11, 170, is the nephew of former Alabama defensive back Shannon Felder. He has been timed at 4.5 seconds in the 40.

Felder said, "The coaches are nice and I like the campus environment. Also, my uncle played at Alabama and my friend (Anthony Madison) is playing at Alabama right now."

Felder rushed for 224 yards and three touchdowns and passed for 664 yards and seven touchdowns as a junior. Defensively, Felder made 53 tackles, caused three fumbles, recovered two fumbles, and had two interceptions. He also returned a kickoff for a touchdown.

Thomasville Head Coach Stacy Luker said, "Chris is a great athlete with great football skills and a good football mind."

Looking Ahead

Over the years, 'BAMA has attempted to provide the first list of top upcoming football prospects in the state of Alabama. Two of those are certainly athletes D.J. Chambers of Highland Home and Chris Felder of Thomasville, who have already committed to Alabama. Among others who can be expected to be at the top of the lists of college recruiters over the next several months are (listed alphabetically):

Defensive end Brad Acton of Birmingham Briarwood Christian, tight end Greer Barnett of Mountain Brook, defensive tackle Pedro Bennett of Montgomery Lee, tight end/defensive end Lloyd Blevins of Birmingham Wenonah, cornerback Eric Brock of Alexander City Benjamin Russell, wide receiver Matt Caddell of McCalla McAdory, running back Charles Campbell of Mobile B.C. Rain, running back Tim Castille of Birmingham Briarwood Christian, defensive end Will Denniston of Mobile UMS Wright, defensive end Tez Doolittle of Opelika, linebacker Mizraim Fairley of Daphne, fullback Edward Foster of Centreville Bibb County, running back Durrell Fuqua of Russellville, strong safety Eric Gray of Trinity West Morgan, linebacker Chris Gunter of Phenix City Central, quarterback Clay Harrelson of Alexander City Benjamin Russell, defensive back Labrose Hedgeman of Hoover, tight end/defensive lineman Michael Hill of Smiths Station, wide receiver Chad Jackson of Hoover, fullback/linebacker Daniel Jackson of Jackson, linebacker Michael Jamar of Huntsville Butler;

Linebacker Terrance Jones of Tuscaloosa County, running back Jason Jude of Athens, defensive end Mario Lane of Montgomery Carver, defensive lineman Dewayne Laton of Birmingham Shades Valley, defensive tackle Dominic Lee of Birmingham Huffman, fullback Leron McClain of Tuscaloosa County, center Irvin McGuire of Huntsville Johnson, athlete Kelcy McKissic of Phenix City Central, offensive lineman Justin Moon of Guntersville, wide receiver Kevin Owens of Tuscaloosa County, running back Eric Packer of Camden Wilcox Central, quarterback Cole Peace of Cedar Bluff, athlete Jake Peek of Crossville, cornerback Tyrone Prothro of Cleburne County in Heflin, linebacker Carlton Rice of Huntsville Johnson, wide receiver William Roach of Killen Brooks, quarterback Jamarcus Russell of Mobile Williamson, linebacker Melvin Scott of Charles Henderson of Troy, defensive lineman Aaron Sears of Russellville, wide receiver

Jayson Swain of Huntsville Grissom, running back/linebacker Mitchell Thomas of Smiths Station, quarterback Jake Tompkins of Russellville, offensive lineman Adam Truitt of Hoover, and defensive back Corey White of Bessemer Jess Lanier.

Near Perfect

Tide softball All-America pitcher Shelley Laird flirted with perfection in this year's Bama Bash. In a 7-0 win over Samford, Laird took a perfect game into the top of the seventh and final inning. But the Bulldogs' Mindy Shunnarah doubled to break up the perfect game.

Laird struck out 14 batters en route to her 93rd career victory which tied the Southeastern Conference record for all-time wins. She had nine consecutive strikeouts in the game.

Alabama went on to win the tournament with Laird going 3-0 and giving up no earned runs in 20 innings of work and striking out 31. The wins gave her an SEC record 94 for her career. And she wasn't the tournament's most valuable player. That honor went to freshman outfielder Ashley Courtney, who hit .769 for the tournament while driving in seven runs. She went 10-for-13, scored four runs, and hit for the cycle in the tournament.

Courtney was joined on the all-tournament team by Laird, first baseman, Jackie McClain, and outfielder Emily Currie.

She Wants The Dogs Out

It wasn't a surprise that number one-ranked Georgia edged third-rated Alabama, 197.175 to 196.950, in a gymnastics meet at Athens, Georgia. Alabama had defeated Georgia in an earlier meet in Tuscaloosa and so it probably wasn't a surprise to most that the Tide took the Bulldogs down to the final event—except possibly to Georgia Coach Suzanne Yoculan. The head Dog had said before the meet her team could win with about an 80 per cent effective meet.

The big surprise came following the meet when Yoculan said she and her staff had decided to end the successful home-and-home arrangement with Alabama each season. She did not give a reason. The teams, easily the most powerful in the SEC, have drawn large crowds to each meet for several years, the reason the schools elected to meet twice per season, once in each home arena. Alabama Head Coach Sarah Patterson said Alabama had its schedule set for next year and it included home-and-home meets with Georgia.

2002 Alabama Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Series Record
August 31	Middle Tennessee State	Birmingham	First Meeting
September 7	Oklahoma	Norman	Alabama leads, 1-0-1
September 14	North Texas	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 1-0-0
September 21	Southern Miss	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 30-6-2
September 28	Arkansas	Fayetteville	Alabama leads, 8-4-0
October 5	Georgia	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 35-22-4
October 19	Mississippi	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 39-8-2
October 26	Tennessee	Knoxville	Alabama leads, 42-35-7
November 2	Vanderbilt	Nashville	Alabama leads, 57-19-4
November 9	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 68-15-3
November 16	LSU	Baton Rouge	Alabama leads, 42-18-5
November 23	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	Alabama leads, 38-27-1

Strong Play Leads To High Hopes

by Kirk McNair

Gottfried has put together ingredients for good team

The adage has it that there are no stupid questions. And, perhaps surprisingly, no one thought the question to Tennessee Coach Buzz Peterson was a dumb one. Peterson had been praising the Alabama basketball team that had just romped over his Vols. "They are right up there with the best," Peterson said. "There's no reason Alabama can't go into that tournament and win the whole thing."

The question: "Which tournament?"

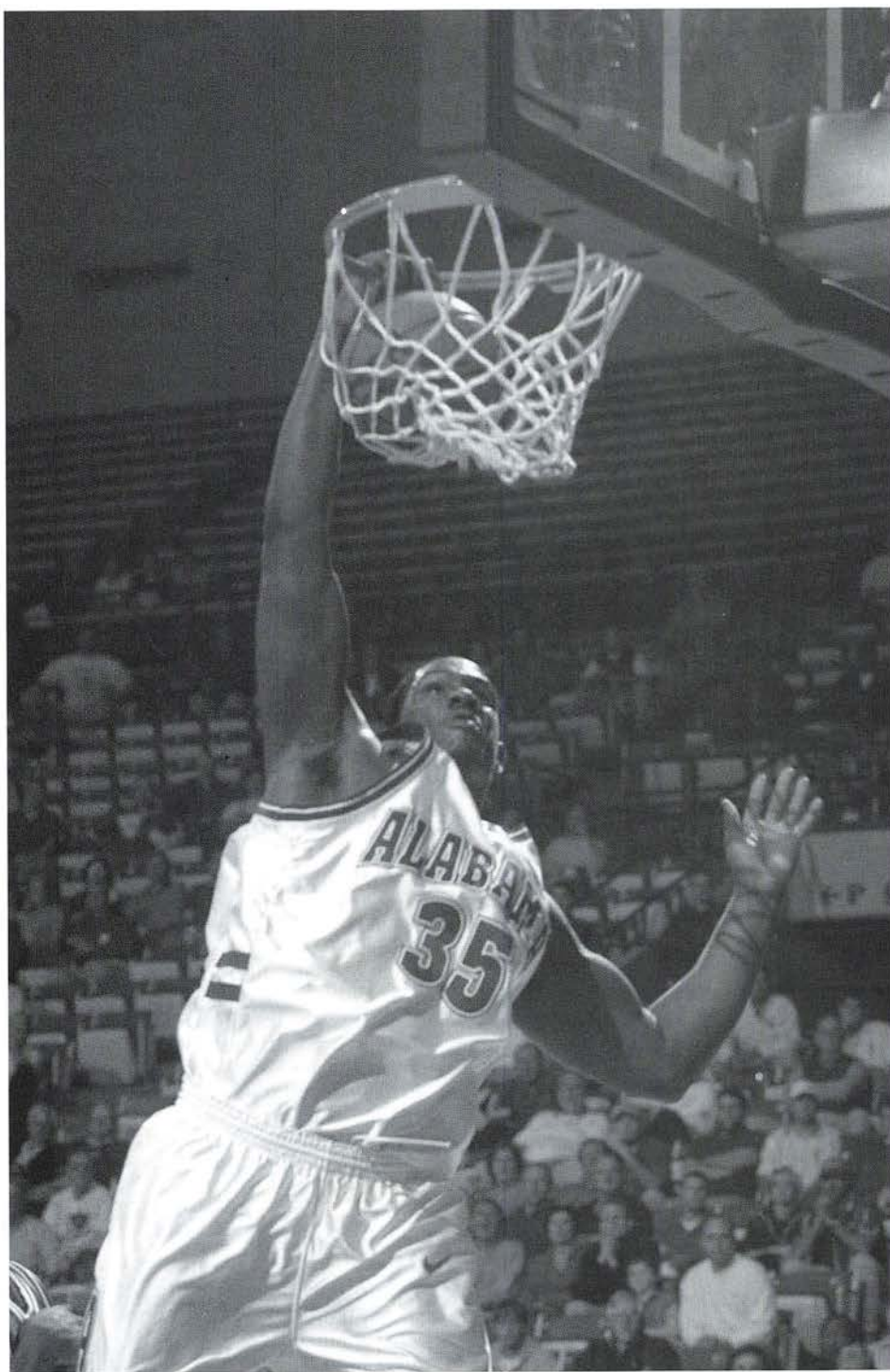
Peterson allowed himself a slight smile as he clarified. He was talking about the Southeastern Conference Tournament, not the NCAA Tournament. In any event, Alabama is not likely to be back in the NIT, where Peterson's Tulsa team demolished Bama by 19 points, 79-60, in the championship game last year. Even if David Tranghese, the Big East commissioner who was chairman of the NCAA Basketball Tournament Selection Committee last year, was back in that position, he wouldn't be able to keep Bama out of this year's championship tourney. (For the record, Lee Fowler, director of athletics at Middle Tennessee, replaced Tranghese, who elected to "make an example" of Alabama last year, leaving the Tide out of the tournament despite Bama having more than adequate credentials.)

Peterson didn't hesitate to note the difference between this year's Alabama team and last year's. The 2002 edition has an excellent point guard in freshman Maurice "Mo" Williams. "I love Mo Williams," Peterson said. "I faced the same team in the finals of the NIT last year, and he makes a big difference out there. He's a true point guard and gets the ball where it needs to be. He makes this team go."

Williams had helped make it go against Tennessee, putting in 11 points, but also dishing out 10 assists.

But Peterson didn't characterize Alabama as a one-man team, not by any stretch of the imagination. "I was very impressed with Alabama," he said. "The key to their game was they got 44 points, nine rebounds, and seven assists off the bench. That's impressive."

And that wasn't the end of the Tennessee coach's praise. "(Erwin) Dudley (Alabama's 6-



Mr. Dependable for the Crimson Tide basketball team is much-improved low post player Erwin Dudley, who ranks among the league leaders in scoring and rebounding and frequently produces double figures in both categories.
Kent Gidley Photo

8, 260-pound low post player) is much improved," Peterson said. "He is playing with confidence and he is a load inside."

Peterson concluded, "Give me a good point guard, a post guy who can score, and some good athletes around them, and you can win

this baby. Alabama's got all that. If they continue to win down the stretch they should get a good seed." And then he was talking about the NCAA Tournament.

Basketball is a tournament game. Teams play all season to position themselves for tournament play. First up for Alabama in the SEC Tournament, March 7-10 in Atlanta. That's particularly important for Alabama Head Coach Mark Gottfried because after being burned by the NCAA Selection Committee last year, he has insisted he won't be sure his team is in the tournament unless it "wins the rest of our games." The SEC tournament champion gets an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Selections to the NCAA Tournament will be announced the afternoon of March 10.

Alabama is playing for some championships as the regular season winds down. With four games to play the Tide had all but clinched the SEC Western Division title with a three-game lead in the loss column against second place Ole Miss. And the Tide had a two-game lead for the overall regular season title over Florida. However, Bama had some tough games left, including road contests at Arkansas and Ole Miss and home games against Florida and Auburn. On paper, Auburn would not appear to be a formidable opponent, but the Tigers' few victories have come over the league's better teams, including Alabama in Auburn earlier this season.

When Alabama defeated Tennessee, it gave Alabama a 22-4 overall record and a 9-2 SEC mark. Alabama's losses have all been on the road. While two were technically at neutral sites, there's no doubt which team had the home court advantage when the Tide fell to Missouri in Kansas City and to UCLA in Anaheim. The other setbacks were SEC road losses, at Auburn and Mississippi State.

Gottfried said, "I don't think our players and coaches are looking at standings," Gottfried said. "We've put ourselves in a position where that's irrelevant if we take care of ourselves. I don't think there is a team in America with more to play for than we have. We didn't make the (NCAA) tournament last year. We haven't won any kind of regular season basketball championships at Alabama in 15 years."

That last SEC regular season championship came in 1987, when Gottfried was a star guard for the Crimson Tide. That Bama team also won the SEC Tournament championship and had a 28-5 record. The 28 wins is the most in Alabama history.

The Tide head coach said his team must take care of each game, one at a time. "If you start thinking about seedings, you're taking your eye off the ball," he said. "We need to concentrate on being the best team we can be."

Actually, Gottfried's players, like Alabama fans, may be looking a little bit ahead.

Following Peterson's remarks, Dudley said, "We've had high goals since the first game of the season. We think we can win the SEC Tournament, even though every team is now playing its best game against us. And if we can win the SEC, we can win it all."

There is reason for both caution and confidence in the Crimson Tide camp. A year ago the Tide had been firmly in the national rankings through most of the regular season, only to hit the skids down the stretch and play itself out of a sure NCAA Tournament berth. On the other hand, this team has been firmly entrenched not just in the rankings, but in the nation's top 10. When Bama made it to fifth in early February it was the Tide's highest ranking in the Associated Press poll since 1974, when current Bama Assistant Coach T.R. Dunn was a star Alabama player as a freshman. And the Tide didn't start out high. In pre-season rankings Alabama was 24th in the Associated Press rankings and didn't make it into the ESPN/USA Today ratings until the third week of the season. The Tide has been in the nation's top ten throughout the month of February.

Even Gottfried acknowledged the lofty perch. "I think it's exciting," he said. "It shows you that we've made some progress

here. I think our players are hungry to do a lot more and they're not going to be content with that. But it is exciting to have been down when you try to build a program back up and it's a positive step along the way."

This year's 20-win season is the 22nd in Bama history and the second in a row. Going into the Florida game, Alabama had beaten every team except the Gators—which is to say every team it had played—in the SEC Eastern Division, which is generally regarded as stronger than the Western Division. Those wins included victories on the road over Kentucky, Georgia, and South Carolina. Bama had also been undefeated in home games.

Alabama is 3-2 against ranked teams and none of those games have been in Coleman Coliseum. Florida was to be Bama's only home game against a ranked team.

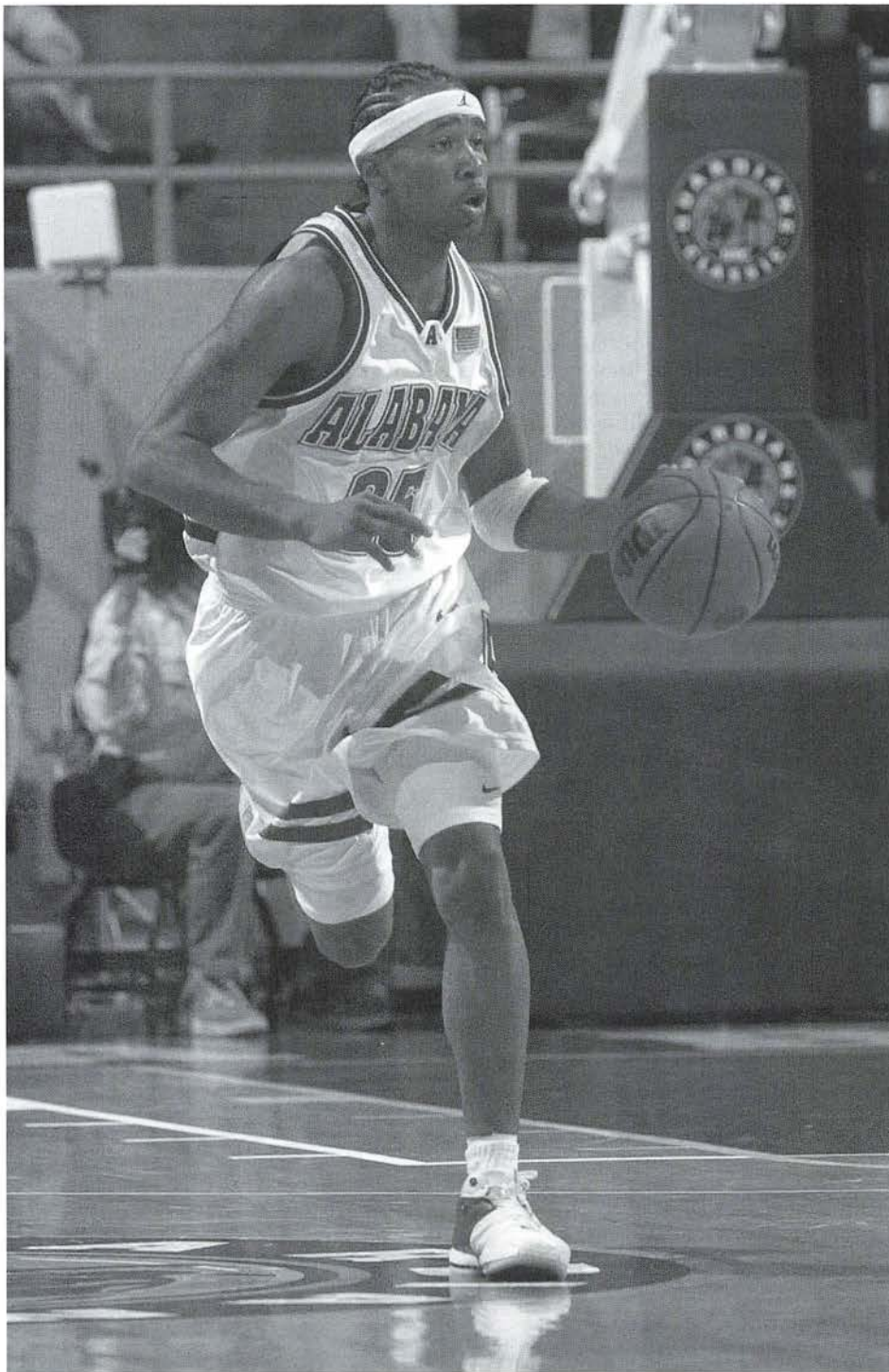
That's one reason Alabama ranks high in those mysterious College RPI rankings. Going into the Tennessee game, Bama was ranked sixth in the nation and had played 17 schools ranked in the RPI top 100. Only six of those games were played at home. Alabama was 13-4 against teams in the RPI Top 100 and 9-2 vs. teams in the Top 50. Bama had not lost to any teams ranked below 89.

And Alabama has not had any back-to-

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Freshman point guard Mo Williams has been the catalyst for Alabama this year. For the past few years a true point guard has been the missing ingredient. Although he is a first year player, he may be the difference in Alabama's tournament success this year. Kent Gidley Photo

back losses. After each loss, the Tide has been able to bounce back with a win.

Alabama is a well-coached team, but good coaches lay the foundation with good recruiting. Gottfried said, "I like recruiting guys who can shoot, and we've got a team of guys who can shoot it." While

that is true, it does not always *prove* true. In fact, one of the few statistics in which Alabama does not rank near the top of the league is shooting accuracy. However, Alabama gets a lot of shots. And Bama has been excellent in defending the shot.

He's also got a team that has developed a strong eight-deep, and could go as deep as

10 players in certain situations. Although he has two stars, they are not always the starting players. Rod Grizzard has done a lot to win many games for Alabama over the past three years, but this season even when Grizzard has been off, Alabama has been able to triumph. That's in part because Dudley has been Mr. Consistency. A dozen times this year Dudley has provided double-digit numbers in scoring and rebounding, a feat he has performed over 30 times in his three-year career. For most of this season he has led the SEC in rebounding and ranked near the top in league scoring.

Williams deserves accolades for taking over the point guard position as a true freshman. He ranks among SEC leaders in two key point guard statistics, assists and steals. And he scores.

Gottfried wouldn't want to talk about it, but the truth is that basketball is not a game for seven-footers. Check the Final Four each year and you'll see teams with excellent guard play. Indeed, check the Sweet 16, because a team has a hard time getting there without good guards.

Even if Grizzard is considered a small forward—he wouldn't appreciate that designation—Alabama has strength and depth at guard. It may be the weakest of the four men who are seeing plenty of playing time at guard is Terrance Meade, who is the starting wing guard. Bama has gotten big lifts, though, from two substitute guards, former walk-on Antoine Pettway and freshman Earnest Shelton, who has come back from arthroscopic knee surgery. Pettway is a demon on defense and an aggressive offensive player, continually attacking the basket. Shelton is a pure shooter, and when he's on he can score points in bunches.

The other starter is Kenny Walker, Alabama's only player besides Dudley with any height. Though the two big men start together, Gottfried has had to juggle the line-up to give them rest, frequently substituting one for the other and leaving Alabama with a small line-up. While that line-up is sometimes on big man and four guards—if Grizzard is considered a guard—down the stretch Alabama has gotten excellent play from a guard now playing wherever he's needed. Demetrius Smith is only 6-3, but he's a basketball player in a football player's body, and he plays tough.

And if the need arises, Gottfried can go to another guard, Travis Stinnett. Stinnett has a history of being a big man in big games, but his size and average ball-handling skills limit him in some situations. Reggie Rambo is not huge, but he can play hard for a few minutes and give one of the big men some rest.

Gottfried said, "We have a number of guys who can step up and help us." As a result, the Crimson Tide is master of its own destiny, not having to rely on anyone else for help.



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Franchione Eyes Start Of Year Two

by Kirk McNair

Tide will build on schemes players are familiar with

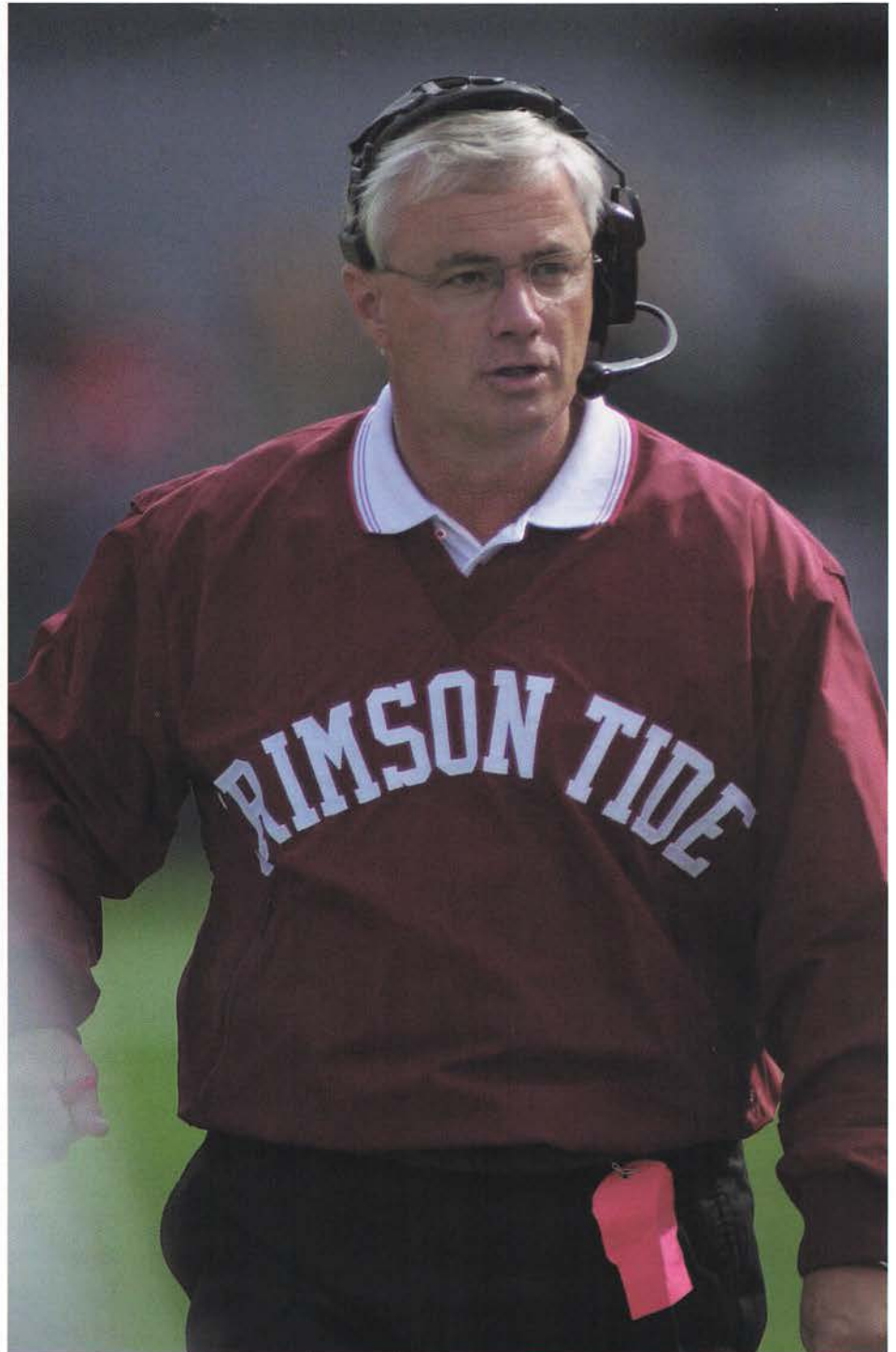
While most of the attention on Alabama football has been on either the NCAA sanctions against the program or on the recruiting of players for future competition, Crimson Tide Head Coach Dennis Franchione has to get a team ready to play the 2002 season. Although Alabama is not coming off a great season, the 7-5 worksheet posted by Franchione's first Bama team last year had some remarkable positives. That squad successfully made the changes in offensive and defensive philosophy to post a winning record after the previous Tide team had gone 3-8. And Alabama got better as the season went along, turning a 3-5 start into a winning record with four victories at the end of the season. As all Alabama followers remember, those wins included an incredible 31-7 romp over Auburn in Auburn and an unlikely come-from-behind victory over Iowa State to win the Independence Bowl.

Franchione acknowledges there will be a "big difference" in the first spring practice he conducted beginning last March and the 15 days of training that will get underway March 7 and conclude with the A-Day Game on April 13 this year.

"They'll already know what we want to do offensively and defensively, so we'll be able to build on that," Franchione said. "Last spring every day was a new day. It was impossible to install everything and make accurate evaluations. An uncertain player is tentative, so we couldn't put as much in as we will this year. Last year spring practice had to be the first 15 days on the way to our first game. This year it will be a segment unto itself."

Franchione said that offensive and defensive alignments and schemes would stay "pretty much" as they were in 2001.

The Tide head coach and his staff members were still learning the names of all their players when spring practice got started in 2001. Moreover, Franchione had made the decision to give everyone a fresh start. There were no evaluations of players based on games in the Mike DuBose era (although those who had been first team started off spring practice as first teamers simply because there has to be some kind of depth chart). One thing that will not change from last year is that players will continue to be evaluated by the coaches on a daily basis. "And," Franchione said, "we'll be looking to



Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione led the Crimson Tide to a winning record in 2001. Now he must build a team for the challenging 2002 season. Barry Fikes Photo

get everyone in the right place. But the difference this year is that we'll just be 'tweaking' things."

Alabama brings back a squad with a number of players established at various positions. For instance, there is no quarterback controversy. Tyler Watts, who started the first nine games of 2001, returns for his senior season at quarterback. Although he missed the stretch run of last season because of a torn muscle, he has been pronounced as ready to go.

Franchione said, "We want to get Tyler further along. But just as big, we want to get (redshirt freshmen) Brodie (Croyle) and Spencer (Pennington) further along, too. Bowl practice was important for those guys, and this spring will be, too."

Alabama used time during bowl preparation to give extra work to players who had seen little or no game action during the season, including giving work on Alabama's offense and defense to those players who spent the year primarily on the scout team. That should give them a head start this spring.

Franchione said there is a chance that Watts will be held out of the A-Day Game on April 13 so that Croyle and Pennington can compete.

The coach said, "Brodie may be a little

ahead of Spencer. It helped Brodie that he was here last spring, and then last fall he spent more time with the first and second teams. We knew from the beginning that we would almost certainly redshirt Spencer and so he was with the scout team from the beginning."

Traditionally, spring is a time for some experimentation and Franchione expects to look at several players in new positions. However, there will not be wholesale moves. With the decision of Saleem Rasheed to forego his final year of Alabama football in order to enter the NFL draft, linebacker will get attention in the spring (see Page 16). "We went from kind of solid to pretty thin," Franchione said of Rasheed's defection. "We know Freddie Roach has ability, but we have to find some depth and we need to get some answers this spring."

Beginning during bowl practice, the Tide started looking at Juke King as a linebacker. King was signed as a defensive back, but is now linebacker size, 6-2, 225. Another redshirt freshman, Mark Anderson (6-6, 220), signed as a defensive end or tight end, may also have a chance to show what he can do at linebacker.

Upcoming sophomore Ray Hudson is possibly Alabama's fastest football player, and

Franchione said, "We've got to try to find a way to get him on the field. He's too talented to not be out there." Hudson (5-11, 197) started his Bama career as a defensive back, but was moved to tailback. However, as senior Ahmaad Galloway (6-1, 228) and junior Santonio Beard (6-1, 207) progressed, Hudson had little playing time. While Hudson could stay at tailback, he will get a look at other positions, probably including wide receiver.

Bama lost two of its top wide receivers, Freddie Milons and Jason McAddley, after last season. While there is still good quality in the likes of Antonio Carter (5-9, 195), Sam Collins (6-1, 181), Triandos Luke (6-0, 190) and Dre Fulgham (6-1, 214), Bama's offense needs a large number of receivers. One interesting possibility is former Tide defensive end Leslie Williams (6-5, 201, down from his old 235 weight). Williams left the team prior to last spring, but has asked for a chance to come back and will get his first look as a wide receiver. And Jay Stubbs (5-8, 175), the son of former Tide Assistant Coach Charlie Stubbs, is back from his Mormon mission work.

Senior Theo Sanders (6-3, 248) is heir apparent at tight end, where Terry Jones has graduated, but Franchione is also anxious to see Donald Clarke (6-6, 252), who played

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only sparingly last year and who has two years of eligibility remaining.

Donnie Lowe (6-2, 247) returns at full-back, but the Tide will be looking for a back-up. Although Marvin Brown (6-0, 253) has a year of eligibility remaining, he has a checkered academic past.

The Crimson Tide offensive line has quality and quantity with five starters and their top back-ups returning from last season when Alabama led the Southeastern Conference in rushing. Those starters would be expected to hold their spots. They are quick tackle Wesley Britt (6-8, 304), quick guard Justin Smiley (6-3, 292), center Alonzo Ephraim (6-4, 295), strongside guard Marico Portis (6-0, 308), and strong tackle Evan Mathis (6-5, 288).

However, a couple of situations could alter the depth chart behind them. Three redshirt freshmen were impressive last fall. They are center J.B. Closner (6-4, 290), guard Mark Sanders (6-7, 305) and tackle Von Ewing (6-5, 297). Additionally, a couple of back-up offensive linemen will get a look at defensive tackle this spring.

Defensive tackle was relatively thin last season, forcing Kenny King (6-3, 277) to move from end to tackle. One key back-up, David Daniel, graduated. Alabama will look at Atlas Herrion (6-4, 299), formerly a back-up at quickside tackle, and Bart Raulston (6-8, 347), formerly a back-up strongside guard, on the defensive line. Bama does return Jarret Johnson (6-4, 281) as the starting tackle and Anthony Bryant (6-3, 349) and Derek Sanders (6-5, 283) as back-up tackles.

Also on the defensive line, Alabama will welcome the return of end Antwan Odom. Odom played as a freshman in 2000, but suffered a shoulder injury and was redshirted last year. He spent his time wisely during his rehabilitation, bulking himself up with exemplary weightroom work. The 6-5 Odom has gone from 247 to 275 pounds.

Aries Monroe is gone from the end corps, but Alabama returns Kindal Moorehead (6-4, 293), Todd Bates (6-4, 236), and Nautyn McKay-Loescher (6-4, 244).

The secondary returns three starters in strong safety Wayne Bacon (5-10, 195) and cornerbacks Gerald Dixon (5-11, 182) and Hirschel Bolden (6-0, 196), but it was not a strong secondary last year. Bolden should be better if for no other reason than he has had surgery to repair the separated shoulder he played with all last season. Charles Jones (6-0, 175) heads the list of those who will compete for the graduated Reggie Myles' safety job. The defensive backfield is another area where redshirt freshmen could make an impact. Cornerbacks Charlie Peprah (5-11, 195), Anthony Madison (5-9, 180) and safety Roman Harper (6-1, 180) did well in scout team work last fall.

Alabama will work on aspects of the kicking game this fall. While Lane Bearden is back to punt, the Tide will be looking for a place-kicker. "We've got several who hit it decently," Franchione said. "We'll test them



Tyler Watts will start spring practice as Alabama's number one quarterback. Watts missed work late last season, but is fully recovered as spring training begins.
Barry Fikes Photo

as much as we can this spring." The candidates include redshirt freshman Mike McLaughlin and sophomores Brian Bostick, Michael Ziifle, and Gabe Giardina.

Only a handful of players are expected to miss spring practice, or at least some aspects of spring training, because of past injuries. Many of those were outlined last month. One of the more interesting injuries of last season was starting offensive tackle Evan Mathis suffering a stress fracture in his leg, but not having it examined or treated for fear of losing playing time. He played on the leg all season and expects to be able to go through spring practice. If he is hampered this spring, surgery may be an option later.

Also on the offensive line, backup guard Danny Martz (6-4, 300) has a fractured wrist that could limit his work. Cornerback Hirschel Bolden will not take part in drills after his shoulder surgery, while wide receiver Sam Collins will be limited in what he can do after a procedure on his shoulder. Walk-on tight end David Cavan is not expected to participate after undergoing knee surgery.

Spring practice includes three days of no contact work, including the first two practices on March 7 and 8. Three full scrimmages are allowed. One of those is the A-Day Game on April 13 and one will be on Saturday, April 6, as part of the annual spring coaching clinic. There are other days when scrimmage work can take place, but it must be less than 50 per cent of the practice day.

Bama is expected to have nine practices prior to spring break (March 23-31) with the final six practices after the break.

There will be no admission charge for the A-Day Game, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. CDT. It is also expected that the annual Walk of Fame, ordinarily held at Denny Chimes prior to A-Day, will be conducted in the stadium prior to the game. That is partly because two of last year's captains, quarterback Tyler Watts and defensive tackle Jarret Johnson, will be participating in the A-Day Game.

Alabama will also have its popular "Fan Day" on April 13 with fans able to meet the players and coaches in Coleman Coliseum from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

2002 Alabama Spring Football Roster

NAME, POS	CL	HT	WT	EXP	HOMETOWN
Dennis Alexander, SG	Jr	6-6	339	2L	Memphis, Tenn.
Robert Allen, LB	Fr	5-11	218	SQ	Lawton, Okla.
Mark Anderson, RDE	Fr	6-6	220	SQ	Tulsa, Okla.
Carlos Andrews, SS	Jr	6-0	200	SQ	Tallahassee, Fla.
Josh Averett, SE	So	6-5	210	SQ	Vance
Joel Babb, SE	Sr	6-0	193	SQ	Phenix City
Waine Bacon, SS	Sr	5-10	195	1L	Forrestville, Md.
Todd Bates, LDE	So	6-4	236	1L	Heflin
Lannis Baxley, QT	Sr	6-7	314	1L	Waynesboro, Ga.
Santonio Beard, TB	Jr	6-1	207	1L	Nashville, Tenn.
Lane Bearden, P	Sr	6-2	198	3L	Helena
John Bevel, MLB	Fr	6-2	250	SQ	Birmingham
Brad Biel, ROV	Jr	5-11	215	SQ	Orlando, Fla.
Hirchel Bolden, RCB	Sr	6-0	196	3L	Dothan
Brian Bostick, PK	So	5-11	187	SQ	Cullman
Wesley Britt, QT	So	6-8	304	1L	Cullman
Brandon Brooks, WR	Fr	5-4	160	SQ	Birmingham
Marvin Brown, FB	Sr	6-0	253	3L	Hyattsville, Md.
Jon Brunson, LDE	Fr	6-3	245	SQ	Hartford
Anthony Bryant, NT	Jr	6-3	349	1L	Newbern
Adam Campbell, LDT	Fr	6-0	220	SQ	Ragland
Antonio Carter, FL	Sr	5-9	195	3L	Tallahassee, Fla.
David Cavan, TE	So	6-5	240	SQ	Northport
Gerard Clark, DT	So	6-6	257	SQ	Daytona Bch, Fla.
Donald Clarke, TE	Jr	6-6	252	SQ	Boca Raton, Fla.
J.B. Closner, C	Fr	6-4	290	SQ	San Antonio, Texas
Sam Collins, FL	Sr	6-1	181	3L	Fayette
Nathan Cox, FB	So	6-1	224	SQ	Spanish Fort
Brodie Croyle, QB	Fr	6-2	198	SQ	Rainbow City
Brooks Daniels, ROV	Jr	6-2	204	2L	Jasper, Fla.
T.J. Davidson, TE	Fr	6-2	215	SQ	Foley
Brandon Dean, SLB	So	6-1	230	SQ	Mobile
Gerald Dixon, LCB	Sr	5-11	182	3L	Burtonsville, Md.
Marquez Dupree, TB	So	6-0	215	SQ	Philadelphia, Miss.
Dante Ellington, ST	Sr	6-6	354	3L	Leighton
Alonzo Ephraim, C	Sr	6-4	295	2L	Birmingham
Von Ewing, ST	Fr	6-5	297	SQ	Troy
Corey Ferguson, LCB	Jr	5-10	165	1L	Montgomery
P.J. Fletcher, ROV	So	6-2	213	SQ	Panama City, Fla.
Tommy Ford, SS	Jr	6-0	200	Tr	Tuscaloosa
Will Fountain, SE	Jr	6-2	190	SQ	Brewton
Alex Fox, PK	So	5-11	178	Sq	Pensacola, Fla.
Dre Fulgham, SE	Jr	6-1	214	2L	Montevallo
Ahmaad Galloway, TB	Sr	6-1	228	3L	Millington, Tenn.
Gabe Giardina, PK	So	5-6	160	SQ	Charleston, W. Va.
Tarry Givens, SE	So	6-5	206	SQ	Tallahassee, Fla.
King Gladney, ROV	Fr	6-1	230	SQ	Bossier City, La.
Brandon Greer, SE	Jr	6-1	192	1L	Rainbow City
Matt Grice, SS	Fr	6-0	186	SQ	Tuscaloosa
Mitch Grissett, SN	So	6-0	240	SQ	Red Level
Ted Gryska, TE	Fr	6-6	240	SQ	Northport
Hamid Haqq, LCB	Jr	6-0	185	SQ	Huntsville
Will Hardy, LDE	Fr	6-3	215	SQ	Wetumpka
Roman Harper, S	Fr	6-1	180	SQ	Prattville
Atlas Herrion, QT	Sr	6-4	299	1L	Daphne
Zac Holt, S	Sr	6-0	180	Sq	Scottsboro
Charles Hosea, LCB	So	5-11	178	SQ	Huntsville
Ray Hudson, TB	So	5-11	197	1L	Bonifay, Fla.
Chris James, S	So	6-0	181	1L	Albany, Ga.
Jarret Johnson, DT	Sr	6-4	281	3L	Chiefland, Fla.

NAME, POS	CL	HT	WT	EXP	HOMETOWN
Clint Johnston, TE	Fr	6-4	235	SQ	Wetumpka
Charles Jones, FS	Jr	6-0	175	1L	Waynesboro, Ga.
Juke King, SLB	Fr	6-2	225	SQ	Theodore
Kenny King, NT	Sr	6-3	277	3L	Daphne
Charles Linderman, TE	So	6-3	227	Tr	Daleville
Matt Lomax, QG	Jr	6-2	284	SQ	Mobile
Donnie Lowe, FB	Jr	6-2	247	2L	LaVergne, Tenn.
Triandos Luke, SE	Jr	6-0	190	2L	Phenix City
Anthony Madison, RCB	So	5-9	180	SQ	Thomasville
Danny Martz, QG	So	6-4	300	SQ	Hyattsville, Md.
Evan Mathis, ST	So	6-5	288	1L	Homewood
Roberto McBride, RCB	Jr	5-9	177	1L	Lakeland, Fla.
Carl McInnish, MLB	Sr	6-1	190	SQ	Brewton
N. McKay-Loescher, RDE	Jr	6-4	244	1L	Toronto, Can.
Mike McLaughlin, PK	Fr	6-1	190	SQ	Gautier, Miss.
Matt McMullin, LB	Fr	6-2	225	SQ	Montgomery
Alex McSorley, LB	Fr	6-2	215	SQ	Birmingham
Marc Miller, SS	Jr	6-1	200	1L	Gadsden
Matt Miller, QB	So	6-2	195	SQ	Gadsden
Eric Moore, RCB	Sr	5-10	193	SQ	Mobile
Kindal Moorehead, RDE	Sr	6-4	293	3L	Memphis, Tenn.
Nick Morgan, FL	Jr	5-11	185	SQ	Birmingham
Matt Mynes, TE	So	6-4	190	SQ	Buffalo, W. Va.
Antwan Odum, RDE	So	6-5	275	1L	Bayou LaBatre
Micky O'Rear, LDE	Fr	6-6	255	SQ	Jasper
Corbin Pardue, SS	Fr	5-10	180	SQ	Houston, Texas
Spencer Pennington, QB	Fr	6-4	215	SQ	Fayette
Charlie Peprah, LCB	Fr	5-11	195	SQ	Plano, Texas
Marico Portis, SG	Sr	6-0	308	2L	Prichard
Chris Price, PK	So	5-10	185	SQ	Villa Rica, Ga.
Matt Ragland, WR	So	5-10	185	Tr	Huntsville
Bart Raulston, SG	Sr	6-8	347	SQ	Sylvania
Jason Rawls, ROV	So	6-0	220	1L	Statesboro, Ga.
Nick Ridings, SN	Jr	6-0	235	2L	Marietta, Ga.
Freddie Roach, MLB	Fr	6-2	237	SQ	Killen
Derek Sanders, DT	Sr	6-5	283	1L	Sandersville, Ga.
Mark Sanders, SG	Fr	6-7	305	SQ	Ashville
Theo Sanders, TE	Sr	6-3	248	1L	Birmingham
Jeremy Schatz, P	Fr	5-9	155	Tr	Homewood
David Sears, SN	Fr	6-4	241	SQ	Vestavia
Adam Signaigo, TE	Fr	6-4	215	SQ	Collierville, Tenn.
Nick Signaigo, FB	So	6-3	231	SQ	Collierville, Tenn.
David Simmons, ROV	So	5-10	195	SQ	Geneva
Justin Smiley, QG	So	6-3	292	1L	Ellabell, Ga.
Josh Smith, TB	So	5-10	195	SQ	Birmingham
Jay Stubbs, SE	So	5-8	175	SQ	Tuscaloosa
Boone Stutz, SN	Fr	6-5	290	SQ	Arlington, Texas
JoLee Taylor, NT	Fr	6-3	277	SQ	Bankston
Lance Taylor, FL	Jr	5-9	190	1L	Mt Vernon
Raphael "Ty" Tyrus, RCB	So	5-10	175	SQ	Geneva
Montre Walker, C	Fr	6-1	280	SQ	Hayneville
Thurman Ward, LCB	So	6-1	174	1L	Starkville, Miss.
Marion Waters, WR	Jr	6-0	165	SQ	Wetumpka
Tyler Watts, QB	Sr	6-3	217	3L	Pelham
Kip Williams, SE	Jr	6-1	205	SQ	Chatom
Leslie Williams, WR	Jr	6-5	201	SQ	Stone Mountain, Ga.
Shaud Williams, TB	Jr	5-8	175	SQ	Andrews, Texas
Vic Winters, SE	So	6-0	165	SQ	Tuscaloosa
Cornelius Wortham, SLB	Jr	6-1	225	2L	Calhoun City Miss.
Michael Ziifle, PK	So	6-0	232	SQ	Newnan, Ga.



The Linebackers:

Torbush Will Have

by J.E. Lisby

Two starters return, but Tide has no other proven, experienced players at linebacker

One man. One position. One decision. And with that decision, what had been considered an Alabama football team strength became something of a question mark.

Though Bama coaches (and others) advised against it, Saleem Rasheed's recent announcement that he was skipping his senior season to enter the NFL draft wasn't entirely unexpected. While Tide fans and coaches wish him well in his professional career and appreciate his contributions to Alabama as a three-year starter, the defection of Bama's middle linebacker made Carl Torbush's job that much more challenging.

Torbush, Alabama's defensive coordinator and coach of Bama's linebackers, said, "We went from a linebacking crew with great depth to one with scary depth. Because Saleem is gone, now we really don't have any depth at all. There is no doubt losing him will hurt, if for no other reason than taking his experience off the field. But at the same time, I feel like we've got two veteran linebackers coming back in Brooks Daniels and Cornelius Wortham. I'm excited about their future. And I'm real excited about Freddie Roach. If they stay healthy, they will be a very solid corps."

Daniels, Wortham and Roach will enter spring practice listed number one at their respective positions, but behind those three the Tide depth chart is painfully thin. "Right now Juke King will have to help provide depth," Torbush said. "We had him at linebacker at the end of the season through bowl preparation, and he did well."

Before he learned of Rasheed's decision, Torbush wanted to implement a rotation system, working Roach into the mix with his three returning starters. "There's no doubt the plan to rotate is mostly gone," Torbush said. "Then we had a four-man rotation, but right now we don't have that luxury. We've got three guys and we've got to figure out where Juke fits and go from there."

Holding down the hybrid Rover position, Brooks Daniels appears poised for a breakout year. "The position Brooks is playing is ideal for him," Torbush said. "It is a combination of linebacker, safety, and rush end. Brooks had a very solid year. He should have had more sacks than he had. He had the opportunities, and I'd like to see him do better with that. I'd like to see him get up to around 218 pounds, if he can. He's got the frame to do that, but he's just wired so tight that he doesn't gain much weight. Of course you'd

Cornelius Wortham (left) and Brooks Daniels (next page) are established returning starters at linebacker for Alabama. Beyond that, Alabama will be attempting to rebuild the linebacking corps this spring.

Barry Fikes Photos

'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/MARCH 2002

re To Rebuild Unit

like Brooks to be bigger than he is, but pound-for-pound he's probably as tough and physical a guy as I've been around for his weight."

At the strongside (Sam) linebacker spot, Cornelius Wortham took over the starting job midway through last season and never gave it back. "The Sam linebacker is a guy who is kind of between a Rover and middle linebacker," Torbush said. "He's part middle linebacker and he also has to step up on the line sometimes and play the tight end man-to-man. The one who was probably our most improved player from game one to game twelve on defense was Cornelius."

Up until the last month of the season, the Alabama coaches were still talking seriously about taking the redshirt off Freddie Roach. But their self-control means the youngster will now have a chance to be a four-year starter for the Tide. "There is no doubt that Freddie might have helped us win those last several games," Torbush said. "Freddie is a prototype middle linebacker. He's very strong; physical and tenacious. He's more of a pure, inside linebacker. He's got great hands and good coverage skills. And he's very intelligent."

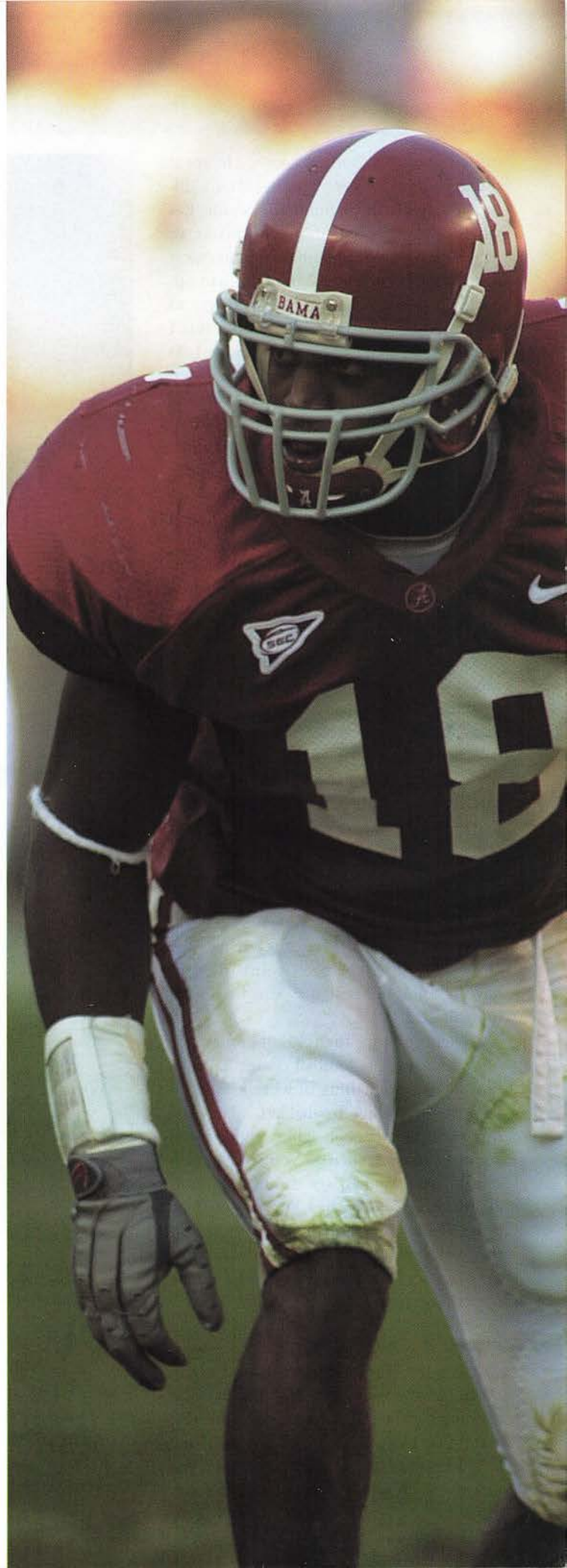
Several walk-on athletes hope to make an impression this spring, but with Jason Rawls questionable, redshirt freshman Juke King is the lone available backup linebacker on scholarship. "We worked Juke at linebacker the last half of the year and through the bowl game," Torbush said. "He falls in the same mold as Wortham and Daniels. He's bigger than you think he is. He weighs about 224 pounds. He runs well and has good skills. He's very intelligent and likes the game. Juke will work some at Rover, and he'll also play some Sam. I'm anxious to see what he can do."

Keeping his starters healthy and fresh while also developing depth will not be easy, but Carl Torbush's history indicates he's definitely up to the task. After more than 25 years in coaching, Torbush is recognized as one of the premier defensive coordinators in the nation. But the former small college All-America remains a linebacker at heart. He said, "I don't think there is any doubt that coaching is the best of both worlds for me. I think my coaching is a direct reflection of my playing. If you asked me whether I'd rather be playing or coaching, I'd much rather be playing, but at this point in life the bones don't work as well as they did."

Like most veteran coaches, Torbush's iron-gray hair was hard-earned. But a 20-year-old linebacker is barely concealed inside his 50-year-old body. Tide Assistant Ron Case, who was Torbush's college position coach back in the 1970s, has a unique perspective. "I still see glimpses of the kid I used to coach," Case said. "He was very athletic, a tough, hard-nosed guy who was fast. Carl played inside or outside linebacker for us. He was very physical, a hard worker and great against the run. I always knew he was going to be a good coach. I tried to hire Carl two times when I was a head coach and athletics director; but it ended up he hired me."

After starring for Carson-Newman in both football and baseball, Torbush played one year as a minor league catcher before becom-

MARCH 2002/BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide

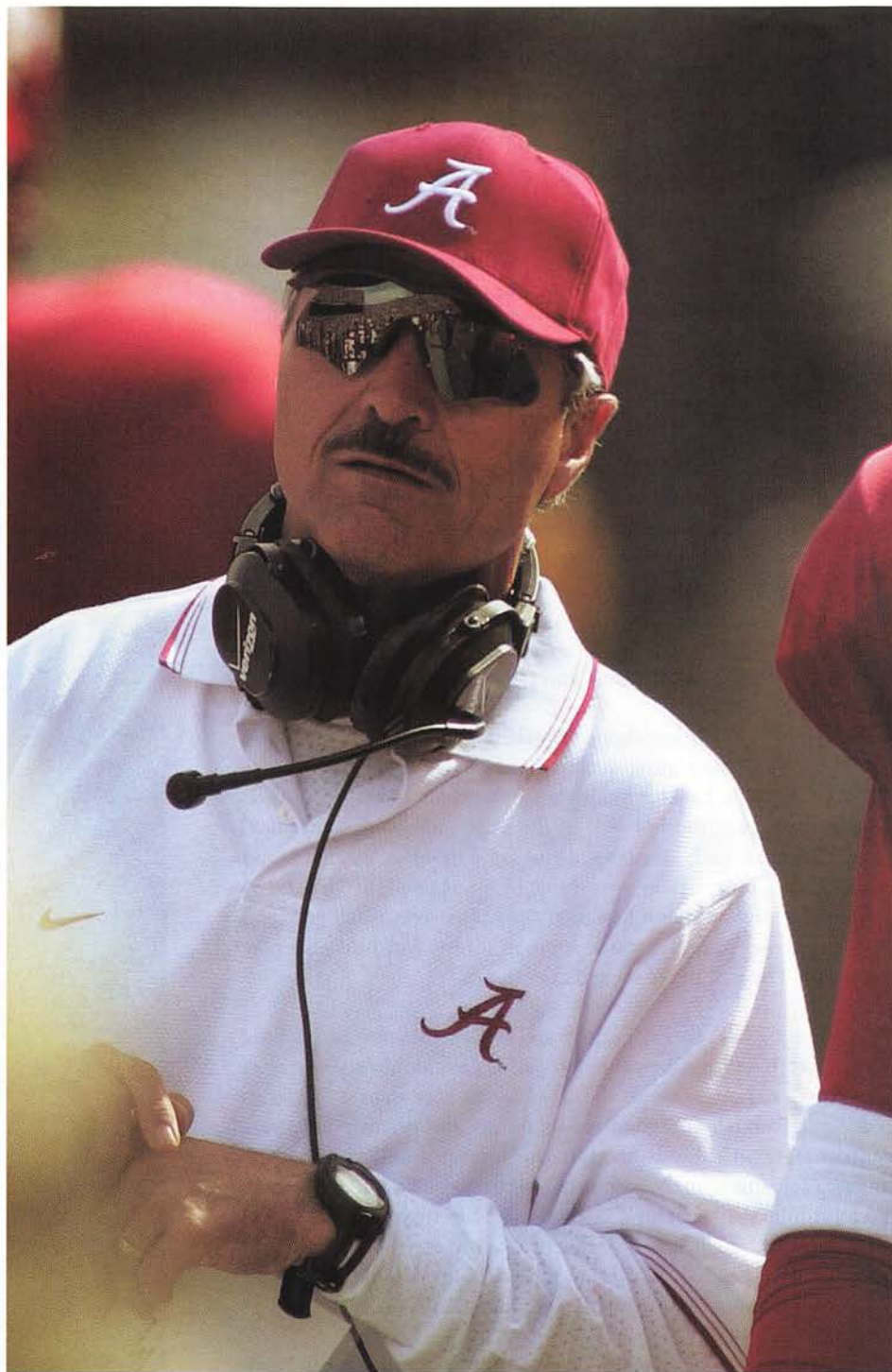


ing an assistant football coach. He spent the next 20-plus years working for six different schools throughout the South. But whether as an assistant, a coordinator, or head coach, the one common denominator has always been linebackers. "I've had opportunities back when I was younger to coach other positions," he said. "But I wouldn't have enjoyed it as much as I do coaching linebackers. I'm just not a coach who likes to lose direct contact with the players. I had a linebacking assistant when I was the head coach at North Carolina, but they gave me about 15 minutes a day before practice that I'd work with the players. Standing on the sideline and watching is not my personality."

For any young linebacker hoping to make a career out of football, Torbush is the man to see. For 11 consecutive years while Torbush was at North Carolina, every starting Tar Heels linebacker but one earned a shot at playing in the NFL. One season (1996) Torbush and North Carolina had four different athletes nominated for the Butkus Award (given to the top linebacker in the nation), and Tar Heels linebacker Brandon Spoon was the first player to be nominated for that award four times. "As a coach I want my athletes to be perfect," Torbush said. "I want perfection, knowing that they're never going to be perfect. But it's my job to get them as close to perfect as we can. When they leave The University of Alabama, I want them to have become the best they can be on the football field."

Coaching more than 40 all-conference players during his football career, Torbush understands something of what it takes to be a major college linebacker. "The first thing you look for is height, weight, speed and athleticism. Then as you watch them on film you want to see if they play hard all the time and if they are tough. If he plays really hard and he'll hit you, and then you find out he's 6-2, 220 and he runs a 4.6...well, then you know that he can be something special."

Torbush said, "If I had my way, a good linebacker would be a guy who was a high school safety and running back, or a linebacker and fullback, a guy that has played on both sides of the ball. I also like them to be an athlete. The first thing I'll ask is 'Did you play basket-



Carl Torbush is Alabama's defensive coordinator, but he also has on-the-field responsibility for the linebackers. With Bama having lost one starter and several key back-up performers from last season's linebacking crew, Torbush is having to re-build that corps.
Barry Fikes Photo

ball?" Then I'll ask if they ran track and what were their events. I like an athletic guy. That doesn't make him a football player. There are athletes who can't play football. But if you've got a guy who's not afraid to hit and who also has athletic abili-

ty, then you've got a package; a kid who's getting ready to be a good player."

It's Torbush's job to take that raw talent and mold it into a champion. But the puzzle requires one more key ingredient. He said, "I tell the incoming freshmen to be-

lieve in me, in Coach Fran and our coaches. We've been in this business a long time. I'll never guarantee a player that he can start. I'll never guarantee that he'll play. But there will be an opportunity. Have enough confidence in us that we'll get you on the field when you are ready to play.

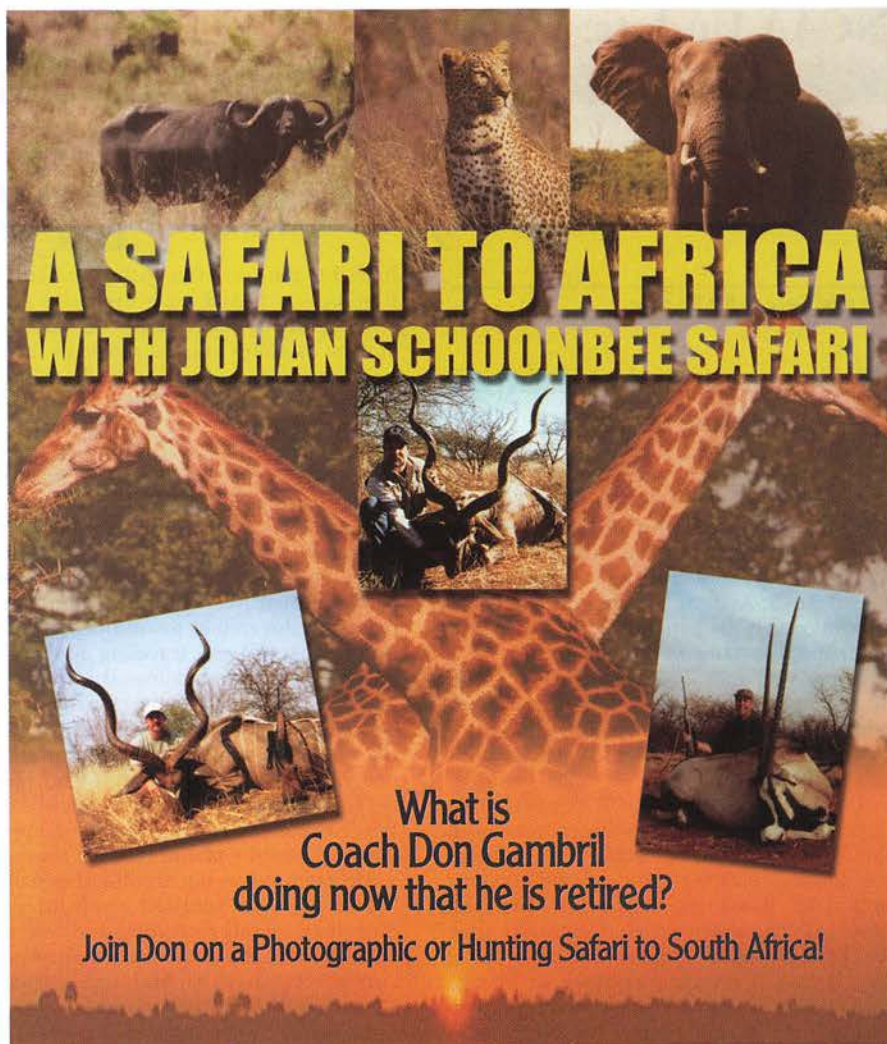
"The intangibles that take a good player to a great player or an average player to a good player are the work habits that an athlete has on the field and off. In the weight room during the off-season and an athlete's willingness to learn. The willingness to spend his time to understand what he's doing and what he needs to do to get better."

Off-the-field responsibilities taken care of, it's on the practice field where the pieces all come together. And for Carl Torbush, those are the hours he lives for. "I enjoy the games, but my most fun is practice, stepping out there on the field. The phone can't ring. The worries of the day are gone. You've got your two to three hours that you can actually teach and coach. You watch those guys improve and make themselves better. That's the most fun."

"That's the reason I enjoy spring practice so much. You don't worry about winning or losing. You don't worry about the next ball game. You just go out there and work on those guys to get better and improve their skills."

Fun it may well be, but this spring will be even more challenging for Torbush than normal. "I'm excited to see how some of these guys respond, especially Freddie Roach and Juke King," Torbush said. "We've got to manufacture depth for the fall. Some of these guys are going to get a chance this spring to find out if they can or they can't. That's one good thing about spring is you have some time to find out where they fit without having to do it in a live ball game."

No final decisions have been made yet, but there will also be some experimenting with position changes. Defensive end Mark Anderson will get a look at outside linebacker and other current squad members will be tried as well. And at least one incoming freshman will probably be called on to contribute immediately. Said Torbush; "We've got a couple of guys coming in we feel should be able to step in and help. There is no doubt that some of these guys coming in may have to give us depth at the linebacker position."



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University Will Appeal Penalties

by Kirk McNair

Alabama officials believe penalties were wrong

When the NCAA Infractions Committee finished its dramatic presentation outlining penalties against Alabama football, University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen was quick to announce that the penalties were "unacceptable" and that Alabama would appeal.

There is no question Alabama has cause to appeal. However, there is concern as to whether The University, which was shocked by the severity of the penalties, will do all it can to affect success.

On February 1 the NCAA Infractions Committee's chairman Tom Yeager announced that Alabama would be barred from post-season football play for the next two seasons, meaning Bama is ineligible for the Southeastern Conference championship game and bowl games, and, of no little importance, the sharing of revenue (as much as \$4 million) from SEC bowl game participation. NCAA rules permit players on a team who will not play in a bowl game for the remainder of their career to transfer without penalty (although the Southeastern Conference imposes a one-year delay in eligibility for transfers from one SEC school to another). Thus, Alabama's juniors and seniors could leave Bama. A handful of Tide junior players were contacted almost immediately by other schools. (Astonishingly, the head football coach at Memphis announced he would be recruiting Tide players. What bowl do Memphis partisans look forward to each year?)

The committee also severely reduced Alabama football scholarships, taking away a total of 21 over three seasons. The Tide was allowed to give only 17 scholarships this season (instead of the normally permitted 25) and will be able to give only 18 next year and 19 in 2004. There were also reductions in official visits allowed. Instead of the 56 permitted, Alabama was allowed only 34 this year and will be allowed only 44 next year and 46 in 2004. Alabama will also have an overall limit of 80 scholarshiped players for the next three years, five fewer than normally allowed. This will not be a major burden since the initial scholarship limitations will make it difficult to reach even the 80 level. It may prevent Alabama from awarding scholarships to all deserving walk-on players.

Instead of having seven coaches on the road recruiting at any one time, Alabama will be allowed no more than six until next December.

Additionally, Alabama has a target on its

back for the next five years, the length of time to which Alabama's probation was extended. This is particularly dire since Bama's current troubles are the result of no violations by administrators, coaches, or other employees of The University, no athletes, and no alumni.

Three boosters—Logan Young of Memphis, Ray Keller of Stevenson, and Wendell Smith (who is not really an Alabama booster) of Chattanooga—are to be disassociated for life; Jim Johnson of Columbus, Georgia, for three years. The committee included a penalty that would ordinarily evoke outrage among independent educational institutions, a prohibition against boosters traveling on team charters (something not allowed by Tide Head Coach Dennis Franchione) and from attendance at football practices normally closed to the public. It is quite common for athletics programs to allow boosters—who provide necessary funding—special accommodations. While this is not an issue worthy of appeal, it demonstrates the pettiness of the committee.

Although it was not an official penalty, the NCAA has now scuttled a second year of Alabama football recruiting and few would doubt the NCAA's lack of concern. After the committee heard Alabama's case in November, it predicted an outcome in six to eight weeks. Instead it went 11 weeks, until the final moment before the dead period preceding this year's signing day. That timing assured Alabama a few last-minute setbacks that could not be overcome.

Alabama had previously self-imposed severe penalties of a reduction in scholarships awarded totaling 15, eight this year, four in 2003, and three in 2004. The University had also proposed the reduction in coaches on the recruiting trail and a reduction in official visits. Alabama's appeal will center on "getting back" the six additional scholarships and the two years of post-season play and limiting probation to the time of the penalties.

Of as much interest as the penalties imposed was one which was not. Former Alabama Assistant Coach Ronnie Cottrell had also been hauled before the Infractions Committee. The committee imposed no penalty against Cottrell. Earlier, another former assistant coach, Ivy Williams, had been released from consideration for a penalty. Both those coaches relied on what have been called "real lawyers."

Mike DuBose, who was head football coach when most of the alleged violations took place, was not mentioned in charges against Alabama.

Yeager identified three charges that the committee considered the foundation for the penalties. They are:

- The allegation that money was funneled to a North Alabama recruit (Kenny Smith) by an Alabama booster to entice him to sign with the Tide.

- The allegation that money and other inducements were offered to the high school coach (Lynn Lang) of a Memphis recruit (Albert Means) to arrange for the player to sign with Alabama.

- The allegation that a Tide player (Travis Carroll) was provided with a truck free of charge, which was only repossessed when the player transferred to Florida.

Young, who said NCAA officials told him he had been cooperative in every way and who has also denied any wrongdoing, has indicated he may take legal action against the NCAA.

It is old news that athletics teaches life lessons, one of which is that failure to do the hard work in preparation—attempting to take the easy way out—is a recipe for defeat. So did Alabama's defense team take Alabama's football program on what looked to be a shortcut, only to have the Crimson Tide fall into a chasm?

After the NCAA Infractions Committee announced penalties against The University, it was understandable that many believed Bama would have been better off with a Nero Defense. While the former Roman emperor is reviled for fiddling while his city burned, at least he wasn't delivering fuel to the flames.

Alabama was proactive in the extreme. Gene Marsh, faculty chairman of athletics and a professor of law, and Marie Robbins, associate athletics director for compliance, emerged from the investigation with praise and sparkling reputations. Meanwhile, The University that pays their salaries was sullied almost beyond precedent. NCAA member institutions are bound to cooperate in an investigation and Alabama performed that duty to the utmost. It appears that virtually every allegation of which there was proof of guilt was revealed by Alabama to the NCAA Enforcement Staff. Beyond that, University officials were responsible for investigation into a number of areas in which there was no proof of wrongdoing, but appearance-of-guilt-penalties for Bama, nonetheless. For that reason, it is understandable that some believe the aim of both the NCAA and University officials was sometimes more concerned with nailing individuals than with arriving at the truth.

But there is no doubt about the aim of the wrath of the Infractions Committee. While the rhetoric, at times bordering on slander, was directed at so-called "boosters," the penalties, if allowed to stand, are designed to relegate Alabama football to second tier status for several years.

The University's legal team consisted of Marsh, Robbins, staff attorney Stan Murphy, and Rich Hilliard, a former NCAA investigator now working for the Indianapolis firm of Ice Miller, which specializes in NCAA cases.

That team had recommended extraordinarily harsh self-imposed penalties when The University presented its case to the Infractions Committee on November 17. Alabama reduced its allowable football scholarships by 15, including eight this signing season, and also reduced official visits allowed by 22, from 56 to 34, this year.

These penalties seemed excessive considering that the NCAA Enforcement Staff had not charged Alabama with the highest NCAA crimes, lack of institutional control or failure to monitor. Indeed, when those charges were not included against Alabama, it was reasonable to conclude that Alabama's high-wire strategy of galloping collaboration had paid off. And it seemed reasonable to expect that Marsh would have a good idea of penalties that would be accepted by the Infractions Committee since he is a member of that committee.

That strategy proved to be a serious misjudgment.

Marsh and Robbins, a former Tide gymnast who also has a law degree, were reported by many as being stunned and angry by the ruling of the committee. Both took some time off after the announcement, which included Marsh missing a regular meeting with his cohorts on the Infractions Committee.

It became immediately apparent that Alabama would appeal its penalties with the

same legal team that had been surprised by the Infractions Committee. There were asides to reporters along the lines of, "Do people realize that Stan Murphy is the man who beat the NCAA before, that he is 1-0 against the Infractions Committee?" And a supporter who inquired as to whether Alabama would have an experienced attorney was told, "The man who will present our case has been working on it for 14 years," meaning Murphy has been before the Infractions Appeals Committee in the past.

That leaves out a critical element. When Alabama appealed the outrageous penalties handed down by the Infractions Committee under David Swank in 1995, there was a separate action taking place. Law Professor Tom Jones, then the faculty chairman of athletics, had been the focus of the charge of unethical conduct. He didn't depend on The University's legal team for redress. He hired a private attorney. In addition to reducing Alabama's penalty and Swank offering a public apology for his committee's botched performance, Jones received a sizeable out-of-court settlement from the NCAA.

Recently Jones, now retired, had advice for Alabama. In an interview with the *Mobile Register*, Jones said, "They need to hire a good courtroom lawyer to defend The University and to handle this appeal to the NCAA. They need somebody who is in the

courtroom handling real cases...I think they have some pretty good arguments to get some relief but they need a real lawyer handling all this."

To the warning, "You don't change lawyers in mid-stream," one pragmatist replied, "They've already dunked us three times."

It appears Alabama has been held to an impossibly high standard. When Tom Yeager, chairman of the NCAA Infractions Committee, announced penalties against The University for alleged violations in its football program, he said The University had "done all it could do." So Alabama was expected to do more than it *could* do?

Faulty logic is nothing new from an NCAA committee. And it didn't take a particularly careful observer to see that Yeager was all-too-typical of what is perceived as an NCAA committee member. Yeager is a former staff investigator for the NCAA, which probably makes for a chummy relationship not in the best interest of the member institution, and now Yeager is commissioner of the Colonial Athletic Association. Few college football fans could name three members of that league.

Yeager came across as someone who had practiced the dramatic line, "Alabama was staring down the barrel of the gun." He repeatedly stressed how Alabama football had faced the "death penalty," saved only by the

DANIEL A. MOORE

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Both Athletics Director Mal Moore (left) and President Dr. Andrew Sorensen expressed dissatisfaction with the decision of the NCAA Infractions Committee. Barry Fikes Photo.

wonderful work of Marsh and Robbins. Under questioning, though, the hypocrisy of Yeager's statement was revealed.

Committee members favoring death penalty: 0.

Yeager was also asked about a clause in his committee's report in which it was noted that if new information was revealed in judicial proceedings, obviously referring to events in Memphis, that the committee could return to the Alabama case. Asked if that meant that if evidence showed no wrongdoing by Alabama in Memphis that penalties against Alabama might be reduced, Yeager did not answer.

Yeager may later have to answer for his scathing comments regarding the banned boosters. He said they brought "unprecedented disgrace" to The University and urged Bama followers to treat them with disdain. Some have suggested that those boosters have been placed in personal danger by Yeager's suggestion that the accused boosters be subject to "public scorn."

Southeastern Conference Commissioner Roy Kramer is hardly perceived as a friend of The University, particularly after it was revealed that his office may have warned some member schools of the danger of recruiting Albert Means while withholding that information from Alabama. Nevertheless, Kramer was quoted in the *Montgomery Advertiser* fol-

lowing a speech to the Rotary Club as saying, "I think there's some issues that Alabama rightfully can raise in that case. I'm not here to predict what might happen. I have no idea. But I certainly think there is a possibility for that appeal to move forward."

Alabama's legal team may pick at a number of issues, or it may go for broad strokes. The most obvious claim is the one given by Yeager, that Alabama has been vigilant in its compliance division, working "24 (hours per day), seven (days per week)...I can't see anything more that they could have done," he said. "We know how hard this university has worked to have an ethical program."

It is also likely that someone will raise the issue of Alabama being a repeat violator. That is true only in the most absurdly technical sense. The most serious charge against Alabama from 1995, lack of institutional control, was dropped. The 1999 charge under which Alabama entered this investigation as a repeat offender was depicted by Yeager as another major violation. That case was the storied one in which a new assistant basketball coach sought money from boosters, ostensibly to be used in illegal recruiting. The boosters notified The University and Alabama fired the coach and notified the NCAA, earning gushing praise from the Infractions Committee. But Yeager's committee considered this to be

just another example of a rogue institution. Thus, Alabama pays a dear price for having done the right things.

Yeager was not convincing when he said the NCAA was not trying to make an example out of Alabama, merely attempting to "send a message" to boosters.

No new proof was offered in the press release. As Cecil Hurt of *The Tuscaloosa News* pointed out, it was obvious the committee had done no work, merely rubber-stamping the suggestions of the Enforcement Staff. It has previously been pointed out that the NCAA acknowledges it does not have to prove guilt, merely (how convenient) believe it. An Alabama law school graduate who followed the case mused, "I wonder how bad it would have been if they had had proof of wrongdoing?"

The Enforcement Staff and the Infractions Committee embraced some witnesses who would be discarded like yesterday's garbage by fair jurists. And when even that was not enough they came up with a "secret witness" to tie together parts of the story that could not otherwise be made to fit.

Finally, the committee may have to explain in its response to Alabama's appeal how Yeager and another current member of the Infractions Committee could have so different a view of Alabama's case than they did of one at Kansas State. Yeager, along with current Infractions Committee member James Park, Jr., attorney and retired judge in Lexington, Kentucky, sat on the Kansas State case. Here are excerpts:

"The Division I Committee on Infractions has extended Kansas State University's probation by one year for violations of NCAA bylaws governing recruiting inducements and extra benefits involving the university's football program.

"The university was in the second year of a two-year probation stemming from violations that occurred in 1994 and 1995. Though the university was subject to provisions of the NCAA's repeat-violator bylaws, the committee decided not to impose any of the penalties and commended Kansas State for the manner in which it responded to the reported violation.

"The violation concerned the provision of cash by representatives of the university's athletics interests to a football student-athlete before and after his enrollment at Kansas State.

"The Committee on Infractions accepted as its own this penalty self-imposed by the university: Disassociation of the seven representatives of the institution's athletics interests and the three other individuals involved in the violations as defined in the institution's letters to those representatives. The student-athlete was declared ineligible by the university during the institution's inquiry into the incident. As a condition of eligibility reinstatement, the student-athlete returned the vehicle for a refund and donated the refunded money to a local charity. As an additional condition for restoration of eligibility, the student-athlete was withheld from four con-

tests during the 1998 football season. The NCAA also had issued infractions reports regarding sports programs at Kansas State in 1994 and 1997. Because this case is the institution's third major infractions case in five years, the committee imposed the following additional penalty: Extended the university's current period of probation one additional year (May 31, 1999 to May 31, 2000).

"The committee decided it would not impose any of the repeat-violator penalties because the substance of the violations and sports program involved were different from previous cases, there was no lack of institutional control in any of the cases, representatives of the institution's interests reported the violations, and the university worked quickly and cooperatively with the NCAA enforcement staff to take appropriate corrective and disciplinary measures."

Could there be a greater contradiction?

Regardless of how the appeal goes, Alabama must get on with the business of doing the best it can to field a competitive football team. That begins with giving Head Coach Dennis Franchione "the tools" he needs, Athletics Director Mal Moore said following the ruling by the Infractions Committee. "I have pledged my heart and soul to Coach Fran that we are going to build him facilities that will make us the envy of our opponents," Moore said.

The University has been assessing the need for upgrading of facilities (for football and all other sports) and will soon announce a fund-raising campaign. Additionally, Moore is expected to take steps to improve Franchione's contract.

Even the politicians got into it. A state rep-

resentative from Tuscaloosa has proposed a bill making it a crime for a booster or coach to do anything that could harm a college athletics program.

While there is a fear that a vigilante atmosphere may arise in the SEC, that will not be sponsored by Alabama. Several years ago Auburn boosters established a slush fund and were successful in having Alabama probed. While many believe officials and/or boosters of other SEC schools played a part in Alabama's problems, The University has no interest in pursuing revenge.

Even the most ardent Alabama apologist must acknowledge there were violations and reasonable penalties must be assessed.

One curious development following the announcement of penalties and the intention to appeal was an interview with Robbins in *The Birmingham News*. Other principals in the case had been (and continue to be) circumspect, while Robbins was loquacious. No one would be likely to consider her remarks helpful to Alabama's case before the Infractions Appeals Committee, particularly those who are attempting to draft the appeal.

Robbins suggested that Cottrell attempted to have her fired by going to influential boosters (a charge Cottrell denied through his attorney). She also lamented the fact that the coaches in the football program had been allowed to go free. Think about the message that sends to the Infractions Appeals Committee.

Considering the outcome of the NCAA probe, it was odd to read where Robbins said, "You're beating your head against the

wall, doing the right thing, and people are stabbing you in the back or promoting their own self-interests.

"I don't want to sound like all my anger is directed at the enforcement staff, the process and the committee (on infractions)," Robbins said. "Because, some people out there have got to look at themselves in the mirror and realize that they did this to us."

Robbins was not off the mark with all remarks.

She seemed understandably bitter that she could have done "all the right things" and still have extraordinary penalties levied against The University. It appears she was outwitted by the Enforcement Staff. She noted that while she had shared information with the Enforcement Staff during the investigation, that investigative branch of the NCAA had withheld information from Alabama.

Yeager's answer to that question: "It's a judgment call (by the Enforcement Staff)," he said. The appeal is likely to reveal that it's a little more than a judgment call, that if it is not a legal requirement of the investigative staff it is certainly an ethical one. Over the years the Enforcement Staff has been characterized as inept, but this is a case in which it may be accused of duplicity.

Robbins also questioned the Infractions Committee using the basketball case against Alabama.

Several months ago Robbins had been given the duties of Senior Women's Administrator, considered the next step to becoming an athletics director, and she will soon relinquish her duties as associate athletics director for compliance. The University has advertised the position.

Appeal By The University Is Underway

University of Alabama President Dr. Andrew Sorensen followed the press conference in which NCAA penalties were revealed with a notice that Alabama would appeal the decision. He said, "It is our firm conviction that the additional penalties are not supported by violations acknowledged by The University or found by the committee. While we do not relish prolonging this process, we believe we must appeal those decisions."

On February 15, University Attorney Stan Murphy notified the NCAA that it intends to appeal the decision of the NCAA Infractions Committee.

The letter said that Alabama would appeal both "certain findings made and penalties imposed" by the Infractions Committee. The additional penalties came despite what the committee termed extraordinary work by members of Alabama's compliance staff and despite the fact there were no charges against any University employees or past employees, players, or alumni. All alleged wrongdoing was by boosters who had been disassociated by The University in its self-imposed penalties.

The letter pointed out Alabama's cooperation in the long investigation of the Crimson Tide program for alleged violations committed primarily during the four years under former Head Coach Mike DuBose. It also noted that Alabama had acknowledged responsibility and ascribed appropriate penalties.

The letter spelled out areas to be appealed without limiting grounds for the appeal. Among the areas are:

Application of the repeat violator status based on a basketball case in which Alabama was praised for its efforts in compliance. In addition to being unfair to Alabama, the letter noted that, "It is contrary to the purposes of this association to penalize members for effective compliance and, if allowed to stand, this decision will create a powerful disincentive for member institutions and their supporters to fulfill their duties...."

The use of a secret witness against Alabama, which is in direct violation of an NCAA bylaw.

Failure of the Infractions Committee to understand the NCAA statute of limitations.

The failure of the NCAA Enforcement Staff to abide by NCAA bylaw regarding information about "violations or potential violations."

Specifically, Alabama is contesting the findings in the alleged wrongdoing in the recruitment of both Albert Means and Kenny Smith and the charge of extra benefits for Travis Carroll, and virtually all of the additional penalties—the six added scholarship losses, the squad limit of 80 scholarship players, the two-year bowl ban, and the five-year length of probation.

The University served notice that it will present its case in person before the Infractions Appeals Committee. *The Tuscaloosa News* reported Alabama will also hire additional counsel to help in the appeal.

The appeals process began with the notification of appeal. After a brief time for the assembly of the record (a compilation of all documents, etc.) that will be used in the appeal, The University will then have 30 days in which to make its written appeal to the Infractions Appeals Committee. The Infractions Committee then will have 30 days in which to respond. The University then has 14 days in which to respond to the response of the Committee on Infractions. Shortly after that, the appeals hearing will be heard. A decision should come within a couple of months of that hearing. Although no one will go on record suggesting a total time frame, a period of six months—by August 1—would seem to be reasonable.

The Infractions Appeals Committee is made up of individuals with considerably greater expertise than those on the Infractions Committee. All members of the Infractions Appeals Committee are attorneys. The current committee is chaired by Michael L. Slive, the highly-regarded commissioner of Conference USA. Many football fans are familiar with another member of the committee, former Arkansas football player Terry Don Phillips, now athletics director at Oklahoma State. Other members of the committee are Noel Ragsdale, faculty athletics representative at Southern Cal; Allan Ryan, Harvard University attorney; and Robert A. Stein of the American Bar Association.

—Kirk McNair

They Stayed True To Their Words

by James Edwards

Alabama doesn't doubt commitment of this class

Alabama Head Coach Dennis Franchione is a student of college football, particularly aware of the great traditions of the sport. That's one thing that drew him to Alabama. And one thing he knows is that it is very difficult for any class at Alabama to be special, because Alabama teams have won so many games and so many championships there is little left to achieve.

But following this year's Signing Day, February 6, Franchione said that this class has a chance to be special in the eyes of Crimson Tide faithful. That's not because of what the group has done on the football field. That won't be known for at least several months, perhaps several years. Instead, this class is special because it understood the term "commitment."

During the course of the recruiting season, a handful of high school senior and junior college sophomore players committed to sign with Alabama. However, days before they were to make those commitments official with signatures on scholarship papers, the NCAA Infractions Committee dropped its bombshell: no bowl games for the next two years and additional cuts in scholarships over the next three years, penalties devised to sink Alabama's football program to second tier status. But rather than bolt, most of those committed to the Tide signed their papers.

Alabama intends to bring in its self-imposed (and agreed upon by the NCAA) limit of 17 new players in August. Thus far, 19 have signed with Bama as the Tide inked a couple of players who will not enter The University until later.

While the two most-used criteria in recruiting are athletic ability and academic eligibility, in this year's class Alabama found players with an addi-



Brandon Avalos



Chris Browder

tional attribute: honor. And they shared their reasons for sticking with a Crimson Tide team facing potential hardships in upcoming seasons. Here is a look at new Crimson Tide signees:

Brandon Avalos said, "First of all because it is Alabama and also to play for Coach Fran." Avalos is a 6-2, 185-pound, 4.55 (time in 40-yard dash) run/pass quarterback from Hillcrest High School in Tuscaloosa. He is rated as high as number seven in the nation by Max Emfinger, *Sporting News* Top 25 Quarterbacks in the country, and number two in the South by *Pigskin Preps*. His sophomore season he played wide receiver and posted 49 receptions for 705 yards and five touchdowns. He also added 303 yards in kickoff returns. That season he became the first player from Hillcrest to earn all-state. He moved to quarterback as a junior and accumulated 1,578 all purpose yards (1,120 passing, 458 rushing) with 14 touchdowns. His senior year he passed for 1,003 yards and eight touchdowns, while rushing for 303 (including sacks) and four touchdowns. He had 48 dropped passes or his stats would have been even more impressive. He has totalled 3892 all purpose yards in his career. He benches 290 and squats 450. He has a 3.1 grade point average (GPA) and a 19 ACT. He also sports a 33-inch vertical jump. He chose Alabama over Virginia Tech, Purdue, Nebraska, and Southern Miss.

Christopher Browder said, "I'm an Alabama fan and no matter what the program will not be down for long." Browder is a 6-5, 205, 4.7 defensive end from Wilcox Central in Camden. He started gaining recognition as a junior when he tallied 109

tackles, 19 sacks, two caused fumbles, and two fumble recoveries (both for touchdowns). He was a mere 185 pounds as a junior but over the summer bulked up to 215. He attended camps at Alabama, Auburn, and Ole Miss and he received a scholarship offer from each school. He finished his senior year with 122 tackles and 25 sacks. He is projected to play in college at 260 pounds and he sports a 35-inch vertical jump. He wears a size 15 shoe, benches 290, and squats 450. He has some academic work to do in order to gain eligibility, and may have to start his career in prep school or junior college. He committed to Alabama last spring, then switched to Auburn last fall, before coming back to Alabama when it mattered.

Ahmad Childress said, "I really liked the coaching staff. They have confidence in me to come in and play early. Sanctions don't really bother me because I'm in the SEC, and that is the best conference. Bowls don't matter." Childress is a 6-7, 320, 4.85 defensive tackle from Garden City Community College in Kansas. This bona fide interior lineman hails from Whites Creek High School in Nashville, Tennessee. He had a stellar prep career and had been eligible, would have been highly-recruited. He registered 80 tackles, 13 sacks, and five batted passes as a high school junior, while his senior year he had 85 tackles, nine sacks, and 10 hurries. He entered junior college and sat out his first year. He played last season (freshman) and racked up 55 tackles, nine hurries, five sacks, and two fumble recoveries. He was selected first team all-conference and second team all-region. He was also selected defensive lineman of the week five times in nine weeks. He needs 23 hours to graduate from junior college (probably by December), then will have three years eligibility. He signed with Alabama over offers from South Carolina, Iowa State, Houston, Michigan State, and Arkansas.

Jeremy Clark said, "It's an honor to attend Alabama, and it is more than football. I was very comfortable with the coaches and appreciated their honesty about the situation. I want to be there when we pull through." Clark is a 6-3, 270, 4.7 defensive tackle/end from Daphne. He led his team to the state championship by stopping previously unde-

Be A Part Of Alabama Football Every Day!

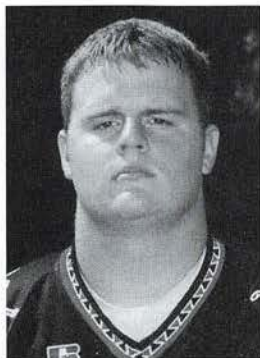
You can keep up with the Crimson Tide every day and even take part in discussions of Alabama football, recruiting, and all other sports at www.BamaMag.com. The writers and photographers of 'BAMA MAGAZINE provide daily information, answer questions, and discuss the issues with you. Join the thousands who have already discovered BamaMag.com



Jeremy Clark



Kenneth Darby



Grant Dickey



Zach Fletcher



Juwan Garth

feated and nationally-ranked Hoover. As a junior, he racked up 90 tackles, eight sacks, two batted passes, and four fumble recoveries. His senior year he was credited with 66 tackles, one sack, four tackles for loss, one batted pass, one caused fumble, and one fumble recovery. The dropoff in tackles is a result of opponents electing to avoid Clark. He has a 27-inch vertical jump, benches 385, and squats 500. He has some academic work to do but he is expected to qualify. He is an all-state selection who chose Alabama over LSU, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Auburn.

Kenneth Darby said, "Last summer I gave my word to Coach Fran and no matter the situation, I don't go against my word. Coach Fran is also a major reason" Darby is a 5-10, 188, 4.47 running back from Butler in Huntsville. He is a four-year starter who was a finalist for Alabama's Mr. Football Award as a senior. He is an all-around tailback who runs with authority, catches well out of the backfield, and blocks effectively in pass protection. As a junior he raced his way to 2,125 all purpose yards (1,200 rushing, 800 receiving, 125 returns) with 11 touchdowns. He advanced those totals as a senior with 157 carries for 1,591 yards and 20 touchdowns. He also posted 14 receptions for 453 yards and two touchdowns, five kickoff returns for 235 yards and two touchdowns, plus four punt returns for 88 yards and one touchdown. He amassed 2,367 all purpose yards as a senior with 24 touchdowns. He also racked up 77 tackles on defense and was credited with 204 tackles for his career. The top running back in Alabama chose the Tide over Auburn, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, LSU, Michigan State, and Tennessee.

Grant Dickey said, "I made my decision in August to commit to Coach Fran and Coach (Jim Bob) Helduser. If no one will panic, Coach Fran will bring us back to national championship status." Dickey is a 6-4, 305, 5.28 offensive lineman from Lee High School in Tyler, Texas. The lone offensive lineman in this year's class, he graded 80 per cent blocking efficiency as a junior en route to being named to the Super All-Texas Team. He was noted as a senior for his devastating run blocking ability and he was upgraded to 89 per cent blocking efficiency. He runs a 4.7 shuttle time coming off arthroscopic

knee surgery. He camped at Texas, Texas A&M, and Baylor. He benches 325 and squats 425 despite the surgery. He has a 2.9 Core GPA, scored a 900 on the SAT, and a 20 on the ACT. He committed early to Alabama and had to fend off numerous top 25 schools.

Zach Fletcher said, "It has always been my dream to play at Alabama, and now I've got that opportunity." Fletcher is a 6-3, 200, 4.55 wide receiver from City College in San Francisco, California. He is originally from Lawrence County High School in Moulton. This former Red Devil played just two years of high school football and performed so well that had he been eligible, he may have already attended The Capstone. He started his career at Calhoun Community College in Decatur as a basketball player. He averaged in double figures but he still had a desire to play football. He then went to City College and made the most of his chance. He had 45 receptions and 1,057 yards as a freshman. He also hauled in 15 touchdowns and averaged 23.5 yards per catch. He had around 900 yards and 12 touchdowns as a sophomore, and led the Conference in yardage and scoring. He has a 40-inch vertical jump and he has two years remaining to play because his basketball year at Calhoun was ruled as a redshirt year in football. He chose Alabama over Iowa and Oklahoma.

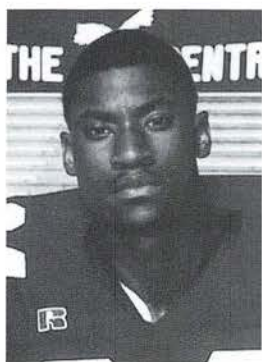
Juwan Garth said, "I chose Alabama because of my love for the school and because the atmosphere is like home." Garth is a 6-3, 195, 4.55 rover/receiver from Austin in Decatur. A two-sport prep star, he was used as a game-breaking wide receiver on offense and responded with 42 receptions for 778 yards and eight touchdowns. His junior year he had 13 receptions for 378 yards and four touchdowns. On defense, he played outside linebacker as a junior and produced 83 tackles, three sacks, four caused fumbles, two fumble recoveries, and one interception. As a senior he played more of a rover position and had 47 tackles, nine tackles for loss, three sacks, and three interceptions. He made all-area the last two seasons and attended camps at Alabama and Auburn. He plays the post in basketball and is averaging over 20 points per game. He uses his 33-

inch vertical jump to shoot over opponents and grab nine rebounds per game. He benches 240, has a 3.3 GPA, and scored 20 on the ACT.

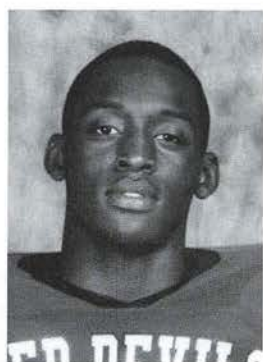
Chris Harris said, "A commitment is a promise. I committed to Alabama, and Alabama committed to me. I never considered any other school." Harris, who got a call from Auburn coaches while Alabama's new penalties were being announced, is a 6-6, 230, 4.65 defensive end from Central in Tuscaloosa. As a junior and he had 80 tackles and 16 sacks. His junior year, he had the company of teammate, Brandon Washington (who signed last year with LSU). As a senior, Harris was always double teamed, but still managed 72 tackles, eight sacks, and 25 hurries. He still must work on his strength (290 bench press). He has a 3.3 GPA and he has made 18 on the ACT. He chose Alabama over LSU, Auburn, and Georgia Tech.

Nic Luke said, "I made a commitment and I wasn't going back on it despite probation. At Alabama you have a chance to play and win big. Plus the coaches seem to care, and they stressed the opportunity for a good education." Luke, the brother of Tide receiver Triandos Luke, is a 6-1, 218, 4.5 running back from Central in Phenix City. As a junior he gained over 600 yards on 80 carries with 11 touchdowns. He averaged 7.5 yards per carry. His senior year, he carried 101 times for 689 yards with nine touchdowns. He averaged 6.8 yards per carry as a senior. He also posted seven receptions for 131 yards and two touchdowns. He made All-Bi-City the past two seasons. He also can play linebacker. He has a 31-inch vertical jump, a 3.6 GPA, and scored 19 on the ACT. He benches 325 and squats 465. He chose Alabama over West Virginia, North Carolina State, Mississippi State, and Southern Miss.

Chauncey Malone said, "I grew up an Alabama fan. They are willing to give me a chance and I plan to make the most of my opportunity." Malone is a 6-0, 175, 4.4 cornerback from West Morgan in Trinity. He gained 702 yards on 81 carries with 11 touchdowns as a freshman, and backed that up with 158 carries for 1,523 yards and 19 touchdowns as a sophomore. His junior year he played just six games due to a neck injury, but managed 875 yards on 82 carries



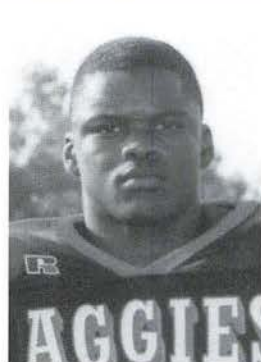
Chris Harris



Nic Luke



Chauncey Malone



Greg McLain



Ernest Nance

with 12 touchdowns. His senior year he had 1,431 yards on just 124 carries with 24 touchdowns and an average of 11.5 yards per carry. His senior numbers also include 37 yards receiving with one touchdown, 320 kickoff return yards with two touchdowns, 106 punt return yards, and 120 yards in interception returns with one touchdown (99 yards). As a senior he had 13 touchdown plays of 40 or more yards. He amassed 1,857 all-purpose yards as a senior with 28 touchdowns and 174 points. His career stats include 436 carries for 4,531 yards and 69 touchdowns for an average of 10.4 yards per carry. As a cornerback, he had six interceptions as a sophomore, one as a junior, and three as a senior. He sports a 36-inch vertical jump and he was named the Class 3A Back of the Year in Alabama his senior season. He committed and signed with Alabama, but will begin his career at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi.

Greg McLain said, "I followed my heart. It has been my dream to play for Alabama." McLain is a 6-2, 240, 4.6 fullback/linebacker from Lineville. He played fullback, tight end, inside linebacker, and defensive end in a high school career of 55 games. He was a first team all-state and a four-time all-area selection. At fullback he had 800 yards and 15 touchdowns as a junior and 126 carries for 876 yards and 13 touchdowns as a senior. He also caught 12 passes for 314 yards and three touchdowns. On defense, he had 112 tackles as a sophomore, 120 tackles as a junior, and 82 tackles and four sacks as a senior. Nicknamed "Moose" he benches 280, squats 460, and dead lifts 530. He has a 3.53 GPA and scored 18 on the ACT. He signed with Alabama over Auburn and Southern Miss. While there was some controversy about when McLain might enter Alabama, he is likely to be with those joining the team in August.

Ernest Nance said, "Alabama is a powerhouse school, I love the coaches, and it is close to home. Alabama stuck with me through my problems and now I can show them that I can stick with them through their problems." Nance is a 6-3, 210, 4.5 linebacker from Courtland. He finished his junior year with 189 tackles, 22 sacks, four

caused fumbles, three fumble recoveries, and one interception. He was on pace to surpass those figures as a senior, but tore his ACL in the first quarter of the fifth game. He had posted 86 tackles, seven sacks, two fumble recoveries, and one caused fumble before the injury. He is also a standout running back. He had 1,101 yards and eight touchdowns as a junior, while as a senior he had 827 yards and nine touchdowns in five games. He has a 2.9 GPA and a 17 ACT. He is also a basketball player (15 points, 10 rebounds), plus runs the 100 and 200 and triple jumps in track. He must increase his strength (200 bench press). He signed with Alabama over offers from Arkansas, Ole Miss, and Nebraska. He will likely become a "blue shirt" and report in December in order to give his knee time to complete rehabilitation.

Ramzee Robinson said, "Alabama was the first school to recognize me and offer me. They showed they really wanted me and when I committed to them, I was obligated to them. I love Alabama, the coaches, and the tradition. The day I committed was the happiest day of my life." Robinson is a 5-10, 170, 4.5 cornerback from Butler in Huntsville. He was his team's quarterback and has expressed an interest in playing on both sides of the ball at Bama. He passed for 1,112 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior, while rushing for 504 yards and five touchdowns. His senior year he passed for 1,338 yards and seven touchdowns, while rushing for 466 yards on 85 carries with six touchdowns. He started at cornerback as a sophomore, but played only sparingly on defense after becoming his team's quarterback. He did manage 33 tackles and two interceptions in very limited defensive play as a senior. He is fully qualified and plans to report during the summer.

Titus Ryan said, "I made a commitment. I have always wanted to go to Alabama." Ryan is a 6-2, 186, 4.3 running back from Tuscaloosa County in Northport. He is the fastest player in the state as he has been timed at 6.2 in the 60 meters. He has the skill to play running back, receiver, or defensive back. Most evaluators believe he will be a deep threat wide receiver. He stepped on the football field for the first time as a ju-

nior and blistered defenses for 1,500 yards and 16 touchdowns. He was selected the Area Player of the Year for his accomplishments. He is an outside perimeter runner who can break tackles when necessary. He had a stellar senior year by running for over 1,300 yards and 17 touchdowns. He ranks as the state's number three player by *Pigskin Preps* and would be number one except he still must qualify academically. He picked Alabama over LSU.

Demeco Ryans said, "I've always been an Alabama fan and I felt very comfortable with the coaches and players." Ryans is a 6-3, 220, 4.5 linebacker from Jess Lanier in Bessemer. Heralded as the state's top linebacker prospect by many scouts and experts, he burst on the scene mid-way through his senior year. As a junior, he tallied 110 tackles, six sacks, and two interceptions. He improved his numbers as a senior with 135 tackles, six sacks, two interceptions, and two caused fumbles. He is also an Academic All-State selection (3.9 GPA, 21 ACT). He benches 320 and made all-state. He chose Alabama over Mississippi State and Ole Miss.

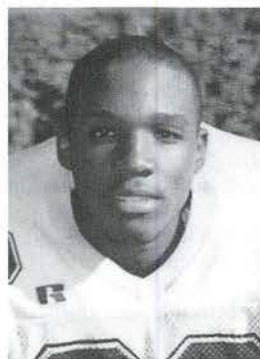
David Scott said, "I chose Alabama because it is a chance to play immediately. The coaches know what I can do." Scott is a 6-0, 180, 4.4 cornerback from Jones Community College in Ellisville, Mississippi. He proved his ability against some of the best receivers in the South last season. He held Chauncey Stovall (FSU signee) to just one catch for five yards, while he shut down Durrell Robinson, the leading receiver in Mississippi junior college ranks, holding him to only two receptions for 13 yards. He originally signed with North Carolina before transferring to Jones Community College after the dismissal of Head Coach Carl Torbush and Secondary Coach Ron Case, who went to Bama. Scott played just one year in junior college and had 33 tackles, seven interceptions, and two caused fumbles. He had six tackles, one interception, and one blocked field goal attempt in the junior college state championship game. He has a 34-inch vertical jump and bench presses 280. He will graduate in May and have two years of eligibility remaining. Originally from Homestead, Florida, he picked Bama over Texas



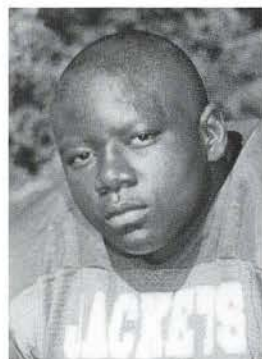
Ramzee Robinson



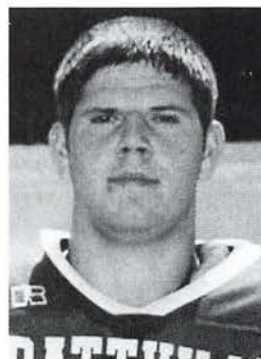
Titus Ryan



Demeco Ryans



Henry Smith



Kyle Tatum

A&M, New Mexico, South Carolina, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, and Southern Miss.

Henry Smith said, "Alabama is where I've always wanted to be. They have great coaches. It also has some meaning that my father worked on Bryant-Denny Stadium when it was expanded." Smith is a 6-3, 285, 4.8 defensive tackle from Aliceville. He was a pre-season ESPN All-America who led his team to the state championship as a junior. He had 160 tackles, eight sacks, one interception, and one fumble recovery as a junior. He has incredible upper body strength (405 bench press) and combines that with excellent speed. He also has a 32-inch vertical jump. He had 260 career tackles and 15 sacks entering his senior year. His senior year he was named Class 3A Lineman of the Year after being credited with 190 tackles, 10 sacks, and 26 tackles for loss. He also was selected all-state and all-county. He signed with Alabama, but his career will start at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi.

Kyle Tatum said, "Alabama is the place for me. I couldn't see myself going anywhere else." Tatum is a 6-6, 265, 4.7 defensive end from Prattville. He was the number one player in the state by *Pigskin Preps* and a pre-season All-America by Tom Lemming. He was active from his defensive tackle position as a junior, but moved to defensive end as a senior. He had 80 tackles, nine sacks, 23 tackles for loss, and one fumble recovery (returned for touchdown) as a junior. As a senior he was credited with 95 tackles, 14 sacks, 25 tackles for loss, and one fumble recovery (returned for touchdown again). He has a 29-inch vertical jump. He was courted by every major school in the South and had his choice of scholarships. He benches 315, power cleans 315, and squats 460. He has a 3.8 GPA and made 19 on the ACT. He committed early to Alabama and signed over the likes of LSU, Florida, Florida State, and Auburn.

The loss of scholarships by Alabama has not been lost on some very good players who were not recruited by Alabama. However, these players recognize the opportunity to walk on at Alabama and earn playing time and, perhaps, a scholarship

in the future. Among those who have been identified as possibly walking on at Bama next year are:

James "J.P." Adams III is a 6-4, 240, 4.7 defensive end from Tuscaloosa County. He was second team All-West Alabama as a senior after he produced 40 tackles and eight sacks. He has a 3.0 GPA and made 22 on the ACT. His father is the dean of Social Work at The University. He had scholarship offers from Troy State and Jacksonville State and visited Memphis.

Durand Jackson is a 6-0, 180, 4.55 cornerback from Lawrence County in Moulton. A prep running back, he had 426 yards and 10 touchdowns. He caught 14 passes for 322 yards and six touchdowns, an average of 23 yards per reception. He is a three-year starter who was all-area and all-region. On defense he had 77 tackles (55 solo, 22 assists), three interceptions, four pass breakups, and one caused fumble in his career. He has a 31-inch vertical jump, benches 245, and dead lifts 425. He has a 2.5 GPA and 17 ACT.

Matt Kosloff is a 5-11, 175, 4.7 quarterback from Tuscaloosa County. He was honorable mention All-West Alabama after leading his team to an undefeated regular season. He completed 50 of 83 passes for 823 yards, 10 touchdowns, and only four interceptions. He also had one rushing touchdown. He just turned 17 and he is fully qualified. He attended Alabama's camp (2000), Peyton Manning's Passing Academy (2001), and the Alabama Team Camp (2001). He was his team's field goal and extra point holder for two seasons. He is also a second baseman in baseball where he has a .300 batting average. He benches 250 and he squats 375. He took an official visit to West Alabama and was offered a scholarship.

Allen Long is a 6-3, 225, 4.7 linebacker/fullback from Addison. A four-year starter for one of the best Class 2A teams in the state, his junior year he suffered a knee injury but missed only one game. As a fullback he had career statistics of 4,283 yards and 54 touchdowns, while on defense he had 394 tackles. He was all-state as a senior. He has a 26-inch vertical jump, he benches 300, and squats 450. He carries a 3.8 GPA and a 20 ACT. He visited Murray State and Samford.

Grant Nailen is a 5-11, 170, 4.50 corner-

back from Briarwood Christian in Birmingham. An all-county defensive back, he averaged eight tackles per game as a senior (112 total), and had three interceptions. He is a three-year starter who has a 33-inch vertical jump. He benches 270 and squats 380. He has a 3.0 GPA and a 20 ACT. He turned down scholarship offers from Tennessee-Chattanooga and Army.

Others who have been mentioned as potential walk-ons are quarterback Brett Borden of Phil Campbell, fullback Will Catoe of Tuscaloosa County, center Cody Grammer of Tuscaloosa County, nose tackle Irving Isbell of Huntsville Johnson, wide receiver Matt Pierce of Mobile UMS Wright, running back Ezzie Raulls of Tuscaloosa Central, offensive tackle Michael Terry of Lexington, cornerback Zac Wakefield of Winfield, linebacker Kendrell Williams of Aliceville, and place-kicker Josh Woodard of Decatur.

There was also a chance that Alabama would get one final signee. The Tide lost only one of its commitments, wide receiver Roshawn Pope of Ball High School in Galveston, Texas, electing to sign with Houston. That is probably a moot point since he is expected to begin his career in junior college.

However, Alabama certainly hopes to add Roshawn's brother, Derrick. Both are nephews of Tide Assistant Head Coach Kenith Pope. Derrick was evaluating his opportunities well after signing day, still considering Arkansas, Florida, and Michigan State, as well as Alabama.

Derrick Pope is a 6-0, 223, 4.5 linebacker from Garden City Community College in Garden City, Kansas. He, too, starred at Ball High School in Galveston, and he was heavily recruited by many national powers. At Garden City he had 121 tackles, 17 sacks, one interception, and two fumble recoveries (both returned for touchdowns, 42 and 56 yards) as a freshman. He also led his team to a runner-up finish in the Junior College Championship game. His sophomore year he had 110 tackles, seven sacks, and 16 tackles for loss in 11 games. He was the Junior College Defensive Player of the Year after his sophomore season. He has a 33-inch vertical jump, benches 405, and squats 555. He has two years remaining.

2001-2002 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	CST
UA Score	Opp. Score	
103	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	77
92	EA Sports (Exh.)	71
	Guardians Classic	
107	Mississippi Valley St	67
83	Samford	51
68	Missouri	75
81	Memphis	70
76	Utah (ESPN2)	61
90	McNeese State	61
74	Chattanooga (Fox)	68
	John Wooden Classic @ Anaheim, Calif.	
57	UCLA @ (Fox)	79
99	Jacksonville State	57
	Jimmy V Classic @ Meadowlands, N.J.	
70	Temple (ESPN)	67
90	Alabama A&M	54
	Sugar Bowl Classic @ New Orleans	
79	Notre Dame (Fox)	76
78	Florida A&M	52
93	Bethune-Cookman	46
76	LSU (Fox)	74
92	Vanderbilt	79
56	@ Auburn (Fox)	59
77	@ Georgia (J-P)	72
85	Mississippi State	73
64	@ Kentucky (ESPN)	61
109	Arkansas	94
57	@ LSU	48
79	Ole Miss (J-P)	59
62	@ Mississippi State	76
52	@ South Carolina	51
	Tennessee (J-P)	
Feb. 20	@ Arkansas (J-P)	7:00
Feb. 23	Florida (CBS)	1:00
Feb. 27	Auburn	7:00
Mar. 3	@ Ole Miss (CBS)	1:00
Mar. 7-10	SEC Tournament @ Atlanta	

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	CST
UA Score	Opp. Score	
84	Univ. of Virgin Islands (Exh.)	77
101	Sports International (Exh.)	109
96	Samford	44
101	Troy State	58
	Pepperdine Thanksgiving Classic	
	@ Malibu, Calif.	
90	Louisville	89
79	Pepperdine	81
73	@ Birmingham-Southern	38
75	@ Providence	78
84	@ Alabama State	89
63	South Alabama	61
72	@ Jacksonville State	53
	@ Cancun, Mexico Basketball Tournament	
85	SMU	69
71	Maryland	56
	Villanova Tournament	
66	Massachusetts	65
70	Villanova	61
62	Kentucky	63
84	@ Arkansas	70
77	@ Florida	83
43	Vanderbilt	69
57	@ Tennessee	82
78	Auburn	70
61	@ Kentucky	58
70	Arkansas (Fox)	72
92	Mississippi State	86
60	@ Auburn	57
54	@ South Carolina	69
86	Ole Miss	69
Feb. 21	@ Georgia	6:00
Feb. 24	LSU	2:00
Feb. 28-	SEC Tournament @ Nashville	TBA
Mar. 3	Gaylord Entertainment Center	

Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Jan. 11	Super Six Challenge	6:00
	@ Gainesville, Florida	
	1. Georgia 196.525, 2. Alabama 195.725,	
	3. UCLA 195.650, 4. Florida 194.475,	
	5. LSU 193.825, 6. Penn State 193.375	
195.675	Georgia	195.025
195.675	Denver	195.225
196.925	Nebraska	196.100
196.575	@ LSU	196.925
197.250	Auburn @ Birmingham	193.525
196.950	@ Georgia	197.175
Feb. 22	Florida	7:00
March 1	@ Auburn	7:00
March 8	@ Kentucky	TBA
March 16	UCLA	7:00
March 23	SEC Championships	7:00
	@ Birmingham	
April 6	NCAA Region IV	TBA
	(Site TBA)	
April 18-	NCAA Championships	TBA
April 20	@ Coleman Coliseum	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 18	SEC Challenge	
	@ Fayetteville	1st of 6
Jan. 25-26	Rocky Mountain Cup	
	@ Colorado Springs	4th of 13
Feb. 1-2	Meyo Invitational	
	@ South Bend, Ind.	N/A
Feb. 10	@ Florida Invitational	N/A
Feb. 10	@ Iowa State Invitational	N/A
Feb. 22-24	SEC Championships	
	@ Fayetteville	
March 1-2	LSU Last Ditch	
	@ Baton Rouge	
March 8-10	NCAA Championships	
	@ Fayetteville	

Men's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Oct. 26-27	SEC West @ Fayetteville	All Day
156	LSU	142
85	@ Auburn	174
Nov. 27-	World Cup	All Day
Nov. 28	@ Long Island, N.Y.	
Nov. 30-	Georgia Invitational	2nd of 8
Dec. 1		
168	Georgia Tech	129
160	@ Florida State	138
105.5	@ Florida	128.5
113	@ South Carolina	130
Feb. 20-23	SEC Championships	All Day
	@ Fayetteville	
Mar. 9	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 19-	USS National Championships	
Mar. 23	@ TBA	All Day
Mar. 28-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 30	@ Athens, Ga.	All Day

Women's Swimming

Date/	Opponent	Time (CT)/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Oct. 26-27	SEC West @ Fayetteville	All Day
157	LSU	142
90	@ Auburn	173
Nov. 27-	World Cup	All Day
Nov. 28	@ Long Island, N.Y.	
Nov. 30-	Georgia Invitational	5th of 10
Dec. 1		
179	Georgia Tech	103
138	@ Florida State	164
99	@ Florida	129
108	@ South Carolina	116
Feb. 20-23	SEC Championships	All Day
	@ Fayetteville	
Mar. 2	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 19-	USS National Championships	
Mar. 23	@ TBA	All Day
Mar. 21-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 23	@ Austin, Texas	All Day

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 19	SEC Quad	
	@ Fayetteville	4th of 6
Jan. 26	Minnesota Invitational	
	@ Minneapolis	3rd of 8
Feb. 2	Rod McCravy Invitational	
	@ Lexington	N/A
Feb. 10	@ Florida Invitational	N/A
Feb. 10	@ Iowa State Invitational	N/A
Feb. 22-24	SEC Championships	
	@ Fayetteville	
March 1-2	USATF - TBA	
March 1-2	Iowa State Last Chance	
	@ Ames, Iowa	
March 8-10	NCAA Championships	
	@ Fayetteville	

2002 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date	Opponent	Time
UA Score	Opp. Score	
4	Louisiana Tech	0
5	Georgia Southern	3
7	Georgia Southern	6
9	Georgia Southern	3
Feb. 20	Georgia State	6:30
Feb. 22	Arkansas State	6:30
Feb. 23	Arkansas State	4:00
Feb. 24	Arkansas State	2:00
Feb. 26	North Alabama	7:00
Hormel Classic @ Minneapolis		
Mar. 1	Tennessee	12:15
Mar. 2	Minnesota	1:30
Mar. 3	Florida Atlantic	11:00
Mar. 6	South Alabama	6:05
	@ Hank Aaron Stadium	
Mar. 8	SE Louisiana	6:30
Mar. 9	SE Louisiana	4:00
Mar. 10	SE Louisiana	2:00
Mar. 12	Miss. Valley St.	6:30
Mar. 13	B'ham Southern	6:30
Mar. 15	Tennessee	6:30
Mar. 16	Tennessee	4:00
Mar. 17	Tennessee	2:00
Mar. 20	Jacksonville St.	6:30
Mar. 22	@ Arkansas	5:00
Mar. 23	@ Arkansas	2:00
Mar. 24	@ Arkansas	1:00
Mar. 26	Oklahoma	7:00
	@ Oklahoma City	
Mar. 29	@ South Carolina	6:00
Mar. 30	@ South Carolina	3:00
Mar. 31	@ South Carolina	12:30
Apr. 2	Southern Miss	6:30
Apr. 3	Austin Peay	6:30
Apr. 5	Florida	6:30
Apr. 6	Florida	4:00
Apr. 7	Florida	1:00
Apr. 10	@ UAB	7:00
Apr. 12	@ Kentucky	5:00
Apr. 13	@ Kentucky	1:00
Apr. 14	@ Kentucky	12:30
Apr. 17	Samford	6:30
Apr. 19	Ole Miss	6:30
Apr. 20	Ole Miss	4:00
Apr. 21	Ole Miss	2:00
Apr. 24	@ Jacksonville St.	6:00
Apr. 26	Auburn	6:30
Apr. 27	Auburn (Fox)	3:00
Apr. 28	Auburn	2:00
May 1	UAB	7:00
May 3	@ Georgia	5:30
May 4	@ Georgia	2:00
May 5	@ Georgia	1:00
May 10	Mississippi St.	6:30
May 11	Mississippi St.	4:00
May 12	Mississippi St.	2:00
May 17	@ LSU	6:30
May 18	@ LSU	2:00
May 19	@ LSU	1:00
May 22	SEC Tournament	
May 26	@ Hoover Met	
May 31	NCAA Regionals	
June 2	TBA	
June 7	NCAA SuperRegionals	
June 9	TBA	
June 14	College World Series	
June 22	@ Omaha, Nebraska	

Softball

Date	Opponent	Time
UA Score	Opp. Score	
2	@ Arizona	8
5	@ Arizona	13
1	@ Arizona	11
BAMA BASH		
3	Maryland	0
11	Samford	2
6	Evansville	0
7	Samford	0
3	Evansville	1
UNLV Invitational		
1	UCLA	9
8	UNLV	2
3	Oregon	8
1	Oregon State	2
7	Texas Tech	0
Feb. 22- Leadoff Classic		
Feb. 24 @ Columbus, Ga.		
(Oklahoma, Utah, Wisconsin)		
Feb. 28	Oakland (2)	1:30
Mar. 1-3 CRIMSON CLASSIC		
(North Carolina, St. Peter's, Western Kentucky)		
Mar. 6	Jacksonville St.	6:30
Mar. 9	Georgia (2)	1:30
Mar. 10	Georgia	1:30
Mar. 16	@ Arkansas (2)	1:00
Mar. 17	@ Arkansas	1:00
Mar. 19	Florida (2)	5:00
Mar. 20	Florida	1:00
Mar. 23	Tennessee (2)	1:00
Mar. 24	Tennessee	1:30
Mar. 27	Centenary	1:30
Mar. 30	@ Kentucky (2)	Noon
Mar. 31	@ Kentucky	Noon
Apr. 3	Jackson St. (2)	3:00
Apr. 6	LSU (2)	1:00
Apr. 7	LSU (Fox)	1:00
Apr. 10	Southern Miss	6:30
Apr. 13	@ Ole Miss (2)	1:00
Apr. 14	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Apr. 17	@ Southern Miss	5:00
Apr. 20	@ Miss. State (2)	1:00
Apr. 21	@ Miss. State	1:00
Apr. 27	So. Carolina (2)	1:00
Apr. 28	So. Carolina	1:30
Apr. 30	@ Troy State	6:00
May 4	@ Auburn (2)	Noon
May 5	@ Auburn	Noon
May 9	SEC Tournament	
May 12	@ Chattanooga	
May 16	NCAA Regionals	
May 19	@ campus sites	
May 23	College World Series	
May 27	@ Oklahoma City	

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 9	Gator Invitational	
Feb. 10	@ Gainesville	6 of 15
Feb. 18	Matlock Collegiate	
Feb. 19	@ Lakeland, Fla.	
Mar. 8	UNLV Invitational	
Mar. 10	@ Las Vegas	
Mar. 15	Conrad Rehling Invit.	
Mar. 17	@ Capstone Club	
Apr. 19	SEC Championships	
Apr. 21	@ Sea Island, Ga.	
May 16	NCAA Regionals	
May 18	@ Atlanta	
May 29	NCAA Championships	
June 1	@ Columbus, Ohio	

Men's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
UA Score	Opp. Score	
7	Samford	0
6	Southern Miss	1
2	@ TCU	5
4	@ Louisville	3
2	@ Ohio State	5
5	Clemson	2
4	Michigan	3
Feb. 22	@ FSU	5:00
Feb. 25	Furman	1:00
Mar. 1	LSU	1:00
Mar. 3	Arkansas	1:00
Mar. 8	Tennessee	1:00
Mar. 10	@ Georgia	1:00
Mar. 15	@ Miss. State	4:00
Mar. 17	@ Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 23	@ Columbia	11:00
Mar. 29	@ Florida	1:30
Mar. 31	@ South Carolina	1:00
Apr. 5	Kentucky	1:00
Apr. 7	Vanderbilt	1:00
Apr. 13	Auburn	1:00
Apr. 18	SEC Championships	
Apr. 22	@ Knoxville	
May 12	NCAA Regionals	
May 15	TBA	
May 20	NCAA Championships	
May 27	@ Athens	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 16	SEC Challenge
	@ Starkville, Miss.
Mar. 21	Alabama Relays
Mar. 24	
Mar. 29	Stanford Invitational
Mar. 30	@ Palo Alto, Calif.
Apr. 12	Sun Angel Invitational
	@ Tempe, Ariz.
Apr. 20	LSU Invitational
Apr. 25	Drake Relays
Apr. 27	@ Des Moines, Iowa
May 10	SEC Championships
May 13	@ Starkville, Miss.
May 20	Georgia Tech
	Last Chance
May 29	NCAA Championships
June 1	@ Baton Rouge
June 20	USATF Championships
June 24	@ Sacramento, Calif.

Women's Outdoor Track

Date	Event
Mar. 16	SEC Challenge
	@ Starkville, Miss.
Mar. 21	Alabama Relays
Mar. 24	
Mar. 29	Raleigh Relays
Mar. 30	@ Raleigh, N.C.
Mar. 29	Stanford Invite
Mar. 30	@ Palo Alto, Calif.
Apr. 6	Texas Relays
	@ Austin, Texas
Apr. 6	Spec Townes Relay
	@ Athens, Ga.
Apr. 13	Sea Ray Relays
	@ Knoxville
Apr. 20	LSU Invit.
Apr. 20	Sac Relays
	@ Walnut, Calif.
Apr. 25	Penn Relays
Apr. 27	@ Philadelphia
May 10	SEC Championships
May 13	@ Starkville
May 17	Reebok Invitational
May 18	@ Atlanta
May 29	NCAA Championships
June 1	@ Baton Rouge
June 20	USATF Championships
June 23	@ Sacramento, Calif.

Women's Tennis

Date	Opponent	Time
UA Score	Opp. Score	
7	Louisiana Monroe	0
7	Southern Miss	0
5	Washington St.	2
	@ Seattle	
2	@ Washington	5
4	@ Houston	3
5	@ Rice	2
Feb. 19	Troy State	2:00
Feb. 22	Middle Tennessee	2:00
Feb. 24	@ LSU	4:00
Mar. 3	@ Arkansas	Noon
Mar. 8	@ Tennessee	5:00
Mar. 10	Georgia	1:00
Mar. 15	Mississippi St	1:00
Mar. 17	Ole Miss	1:00
Mar. 22	Coastal Carolina	Noon
Mar. 29	Florida	2:00
Mar. 31	South Carolina	1:00
Apr. 5	@ Kentucky	1:00
Apr. 7	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
Apr. 12	@ UAB	2:00
Apr. 14	@ Auburn	Noon
Apr. 18	SEC Championships	
Apr. 21	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 10	NCAA Regionals	
May 12	TBA	
May 16	NCAA Championships	
May 25	@ Palo Alto, Calif.	

All times central

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 22	Florida Lady Gator	
Feb. 24	@ Gainesville	
Mar. 15	Lady Gamecock	
Mar. 17	@ Columbia, S.C.	
Mar. 22	Liz Murphy Classic	
Mar. 24	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 5	LSU Invitational	
Apr. 7	@ Baton Rouge, La.	
Apr. 19	SEC Championships	
Apr. 21	@ Athens, Ga.	
May 9	NCAA Regional	
May 11	TBA	
May 21	NCAA Championships	
May 24	@ Seattle, Wash.	



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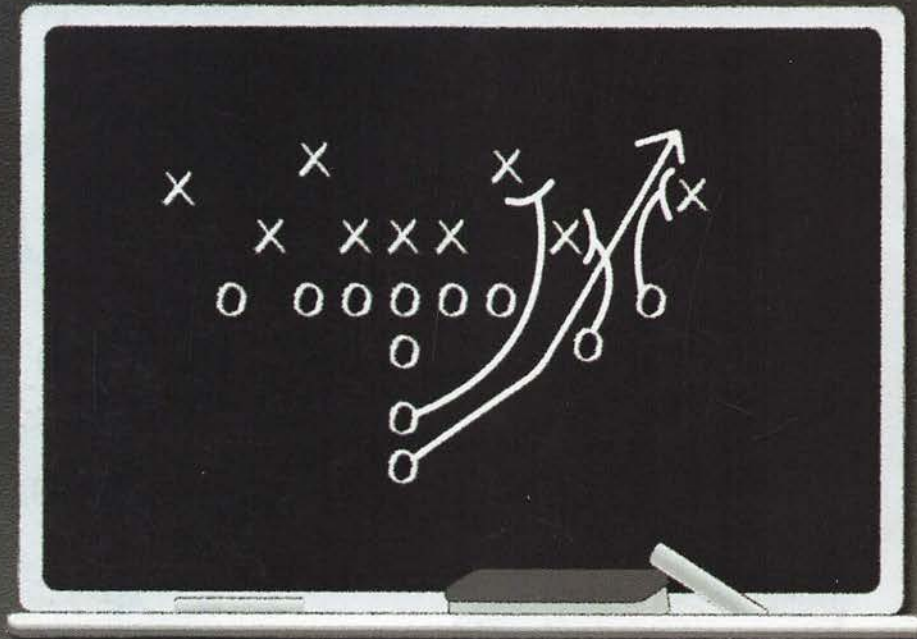
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